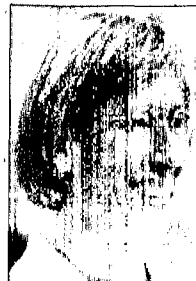


USA
TODAY

Sports

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1994

SWAN SONG: Martina Navratilova, who takes her final tennis bows next week at the Virginia Slims Championships in New York's Madison Square Garden, plays Gabriela Sabatini Tuesday in the first round. (Story, 3C)



Eileen Blass, USA TODAY

NAVRATILOVA:
Ready for finale.

Navratilova to face Sabatini to start final tournament

By Doug Smith
USA TODAY

Martina Navratilova might take her final swings as a tennis pro against Gabriela Sabatini at next week's Virginia Slims Championships in New York.

No. 6 seed Navratilova faces Sabatini Tuesday night in a first-round match that will precede a ceremony honoring Navratilova.

"I'm very excited about playing her," Sabatini said. "I'd feel bad about beating her, but I really want to win. When she's on, she's so tough to beat. She's coming in all the time, and she doesn't give you any rhythm."

The 38-year-old left-hander, an all-time great, attempts to add a final title to her record of 167 career titles, amassed during an illustrious 19-year career.

"Martina has meant so much to the game, on and off

TENNIS

the court," Sabatini said. "I think it's her personality that we're going to miss most."

Navratilova, who leads the series 15-5, was beaten by Sabatini in the quarterfinals of the 1987 Virginia Slims Championships, their only meeting in the Slims finale.

The field consists of the top 16 singles players and top eight doubles teams on the WTA TOUR. Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario are the top seeds.

Graf, who withdrew from this week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia because of recurring back injury, plays Brenda Schultz; French and U.S. Open champion Sanchez meets Julie Halard.

Graf practiced with Navratilova Thursday in New York. They will work out again Friday in Philadelphia.

Other pairings:

Amanda Coetzer of South Africa vs. No. 5 Mary Pierce of France; No. 4 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic vs. Iva Majoli of Croatia; Anke Huber of Germany vs. No. 7 Lindsay Davenport of the USA; No. 8 Kimiko Date of Japan vs. Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria; Natalia Zvereva of Belarus vs. No. 3 Conchita Martinez of Spain.

The pairings would change if Chanda Rubin wins the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

POTENTIAL CHAMPS:

Qualifiers for the IBM/ATP Tour World Championships in Frankfurt, Germany, Nov. 15-20, include Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Sergi Bruguera, Goran Ivanisevic, Boris Becker, Michael Chang, Alberto Berasategui and Stefan Edberg.

► Results, 11C



By Nanine Hartzenbusch, AP

TOUGH OPPONENT: Gabriela Sabatini, who beat Joannette Kruger Thursday at Philadelphia, faces Martina Navratilova Tuesday.

2042835711

FOR THE RECORD

TENNIS**KREMLIN CUP**

Thursday at Moscow

Results of the \$1.125 million tournament (seedings in parentheses):

Singles, second round: Yevgeny Kafelnikov (3), Russia, def. Paul Haarhuis, Netherlands, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1. Peter Korda (7), Czech Republic, def. Alexander Mronz, Germany, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. Jacco Eltingh, Netherlands, def. Karl Kucera, Slovakia, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2).

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday at Antwerp, Belgium

Results of the \$1.1 million tournament at Antwerp Sports Palace:

Singles, second round: Pete Sampras (1), Tampa, def. Richey Reneberg, Houston, 6-3, 6-3. Byron Black, Zimbabwe, def. Jaime Yzaga (8), Peru, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. Olivier Delaitre, France, def. Aaron Krickstein, Grosse Pointe, Mich., 6-4, 6-2. Patrick Rafter (6), Australia, def. Richard Fromberg, Australia, 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 7-6 (7-3). Magnus Larsson (7), Sweden, def. Cedric Pioline, France, 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 (14-12). Jared Palmer, Tampa, def. Stefan Edberg (3), Sweden, walk-over. Sebastien Larreau, Canada, def. Amos Mansdorf, Israel, 7-5 (6-6), 6-1.

VIRGINIA SLIMS OF PHILADELPHIA

Thursday at Philadelphia

Results in the \$750,000 tournament at Pennsylvania Convention Center (seedings in parentheses):

Singles, second round: Kimberly Po, Rolling Hills, Calif., def. Nathalie Tauziat, France, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-1. Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Lindsay Davenport (3), Palis Verdes, Calif., 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, def. Joannette Kruger, South Africa, 6-4, 6-0. Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., def. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-3.

Doubles, second round: Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, and Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., and Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich. (2), 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

2042835712

T E N N I S

Capriati Taking First Swings at Breaking the Ice



Jennifer Capriati during a practice session in Philadelphia. In her return to competition last night, Capriati was scheduled to face Anke Huber.

By ROBIN FINN

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 9 — The paradox has not been lost on Jennifer Capriati: she escaped from tennis 14 months ago because playing made her unhappy and she felt a need for anonymity. But when she came here last weekend from her rented condo in California to escape from her self-imposed isolation, she was searching for fun and her intended destination was a tennis tournament.

So far, it has felt like a homecoming of sorts.

Uncertain whether the other players would shun her after her year as a renegade dropout, Capriati was touched when several of them embraced her and welcomed her back to the battlefield, no questions asked.

The presiding WTA Tour attitude at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, the event Capriati had hoped would be her third of the year before injury intervened and delayed her comeback, has been forgive and forget.

Capriati found a doubles partner, Mercedes Paz, without even trying. She counted tonight's opponent, 13th-ranked Anke Huber, in the throng that viewed her practice sessions. Her unofficial coach, adviser, and new neighbor, Jose Higueras, who signed on simply because he found Capriati likable, has made every minute of practice count.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tiptop shape," said Capriati, who continues to search out a tolerable balance between dieting and deprivation, "but I feel good enough to break the ice."

And she's doing it on her own terms.

Capriati still doesn't want to measure her life in victories and losses, but she does, at 18, want to play tennis again. By the time she played and lost her last match, at the first round of the 1993 United States Open, she felt as if she was playing because she had to. Always uncomfortable with the notion of having to be anybody's role model, she felt like everybody's robot.

But time away, and ample rumination on what went wrong, has changed that.

"Now there's spice in my tennis again; it's like when I pick up a racquet, my essence comes through," she said. "But I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. I'm not thinking about being No. 1."

She also didn't overly concern herself with the 19-year-old Huber's ranking or record, which includes seven titles. The last time they played, in the 1993 Sydney final, just happened to be the last time Capriati won a tournament title, the sixth of her career. In all, she and Huber have squared off on four occasions, and the German hasn't yet prevailed.

The returnee said she wanted to wait and use this event as a barometer before formulating further plans for 1995. At least until she stepped onto the court for her first match in 14 months, Capriati preferred that the duration and direction of this comeback remain unknown.

Martínez Is Toppled

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 9 (AP) — Nathalie Tauziat defeated top-seeded Conchita Martínez, 6-4, 6-4, today in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Tauziat used an assortment of drop shots and timely aces to overcome Martínez's power. The final three points came with consecutive backhand slices, including two that trickled off the top of the net, to eliminate the defending champion.

"It's my last tournament of the year, and I have nothing to lose," said Tauziat, who is not seeded. "When I play my best, I can beat anybody."

Tauziat won the first set after breaking serve and taking a 4-3 lead. She went ahead 5-3 with an ace and backhand volley and won the set two games later with an overhead smash.

Martínez won the first game but dropped three straight in the second set. Tauziat went ahead 5-3 by winning four straight service points, including two aces, and used two backhand volleys. She held serve for the match.

"I haven't been playing well at the end of the season," said Martínez, who lost in the first round of last month's Nokia Grand Prix. "She played really a good match. Nathalie was tough."

Third-seeded Lindsay Davenport posted a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Tammy Whitlinger-Jones and will face Brenda Schultz in the second round. Schultz's power overwhelmed Pam Shriver en route to a 6-4, 6-0 victory.

2042835713

**Virginia Slims
Of Philadelphia**

TUESDAY

PHILADELPHIA

Men's Singles
First Round

Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., d. Amy Frazier, Rochester Hills, Mich., 6-1, 6-1. Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., d. Marianne Werder, San Diego, 6-2, 6-4. Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., d. Mercedes Paz, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2. Natalia Zvereva (S), Belarus, d. Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich., 6-4, 6-4. Julie Halard, France, d. Linda Harvey-Wild, Hawthorn Woods, Ill., 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

2042835714

Sports Thursday

HARVEY ARATON

Sports of The Times

She's Back, But Still on The Baseline

PHILADELPHIA

JENNIFER CAPRIATI was back on the baseline last night, rooted to the place where a good deal of her problems began.

She was back on the young women's tennis tour, in the back of the court, trading her powerful ground strokes with a 19-year-old German named Anke Huber, who was once supposed to be the second coming of Steffi Graf.

Capriati, of course, was going to be the next Chris Evert when she first hit the tour at 13, awash in corporate millions, hawking facial cream even before her own little war with the demon acne began.

When Evert was in her prime, Bud Collins began calling tennis's reigning baseline monarch Chris America. The closest Capriati actually got to becoming a national source of pride was when she won the Olympic gold medal at Barcelona, Spain, in 1992. Soon she was losing matches and career interest, wandering from the court and into a rebellious drug culture that landed her a police record to go with her slipping computer ranking.

Tennis mourned her. Sponsors deserted her. She was another classic case of baseline burn-out.

The pushy father, Stefano Capriati, took a well-deserved news media beating. Women's tennis stiffened its participatory guidelines, predictably grandfathering the newest child prodigies into a dull, depleted lineup. Capriati, meanwhile, planned her comeback, at 18.

Maybe she was going to have to shake her father's obsession, one way or another. Maybe



Associated Press

Jennifer Capriati

this is a story that has less to do with tennis, and more to do with family dysfunction. But maybe tennis, even professional tennis at 13, didn't have to become the quagmire it was for Capriati, the monotonous, grueling, global treadmill, topspin forehands to nowhere.

Watching the Knicks the other night, I thought about Capriati when the camera stopped on Charlie Ward, the rookie point guard who shouldn't plan on leaving Pat Riley's bench too often.

Ward, who has

played college basketball at its highest level, is essentially being paid to observe, practice and learn. He is only 22, and his sport is willing to let him grow.

Young players in team sports do play, some better than others, but they all, even Dave Brown, generally get a break. Their mistakes are tolerated with the hope they will get better. They are expected to try new things.

In Capriati's case, there was little or no room for that. The magic progression for teen-aged stars is to turn pro, get a ranking, then get a higher ranking. Your income, your parents' income, depends on it. Capriati wasn't about to fool around with a game that made her a junior champion and a corporate powerhouse. She wasn't going to hit her best serve and follow it to the net, unless the match was over and it was time to shake the opponent's hand.

She wasn't going to diversify her game, make it easier on body, mind and soul.

Tracy Austin, another short-circuited child star, couldn't take the physical beating of baseline tennis. These days, it's a better bet that the head will give way before the body. Ask Jim Courier about that.

Even the most gifted players who make their living from the back, who get few easy points, have to find ways to compensate. Before she was driven out of the sport by a lunatic, Monica Seles took flights of fancy from tennis, skipping Wimbledon, wearing elaborate disguises. Andre Agassi has been on and off the tour, and at last summer's United States Open, he may have discovered the best solution of all. He worked on his serve and has started going to the net, knocking off a volley winner or two.

When Venus Williams, one of the two new 14-year-olds, was unveiled last week in Oakland, she demonstrated a powerful serve and a willingness to volley. All she has done is practice for three years. Her father, Richard, says he doesn't care if his daughter wins a match.

Capriati is here without her father. When Lindsay Davenport finished her 7-5, 6-3 victory over Tami Whitlinger-Jones yesterday, she said Capriati seems relaxed and finally part of the gang.

On the other hand, Capriati's new coach is Jose Higuera, a baseline specialist. "She'll probably go with what she does best," Davenport said. "I watched her practice. She's hitting the ball, I mean, unbelievable."

The way she was when she was 13, and look where that got her.

The New York Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1994

2042835715

S T A T I S T I C S

**Virginia Slims
Of Philadelphia**

THURSDAY

PHILADELPHIA

Women's Singles

Second Round

Kimberly Po, Rolling Hills, Calif., d. Nathalie Tauziat, France, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. Mary Pierce (2), France, d. Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-1. Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, d. Lindsay Davenport (3), Palos Verdes, Calif., 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, d. Joanelle Kruger, South Africa, 6-4, 6-0. Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., d. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-3. Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, d. Julie Halard, France, 6-1, 6-4.

SportsPeople

TENNIS

Graf a Question Mark

STEFFI GRAF said she was not sure whether her recurring back problems will allow her to play in next week's Virginia Slims Championships. Graf, seeded No. 1 in the \$3.5 million event at Madison Square Garden, practiced yesterday with **MARTINA NAVRATILOVA** at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, site of this week's Slims of Philadelphia.

Graf, whose back problems forced her to withdraw from the Philadelphia tournament a week ago, asked permission to use the practice courts, which are identical to ones that will be used at the the Garden.

Navratilova, the incoming WTA Tour president, was in Philadelphia for meetings involving the Women's Tennis Council. (Reuters)

TENNIS**Kremlin Cup****MOSCOW****Men's Singles
Semifinals**

Alexander Volkov, Russia, d. Jacco Eltingh, Netherlands, 6-7 (6-8), 7-6 (8-6), 6-2. Chuck Adams, Pacific Palisades, Calif., d. Marc Rosset (6), Switzerland, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

**European Community
Championship****ANTWERP, BELGIUM****Men's Singles
Semifinals**

Magnus Larsson, Sweden (7), d. Olivier Delaître, France, 6-4, 6-3.

Virginia Slims**FRIDAY****PHILADELPHIA****Women's Singles
Quarterfinals**

Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, d. Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4). Anke Huber (6), Germany, d. Kimberly Po, Incline Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-2. Mary Pierce (2), France, d. Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., 6-2, 6-4.

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NEW YORK POST

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CAPRIATI BOWS IN COMEBACK

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jennifer Capriati returned to tennis last night, looking much more like a young phenomenon than a troubled school girl who was busted for carrying marijuana. *200 TN*

Capriati was far from top form in losing to Anke Huber 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, but her match marked an important step in an 18-year-old life that already is being rebuilt.

"I thought I played well," Capriati said. "It was really great to be out there again."

The match was Capriati's first since she left the tour in September 1993

and went through months of personal and legal problems that many thought jeopardized her career.

Capriati pounded the same groundstrokes that made her a six-time winner, but with less consistency. Her serve topped out at 96 mph, but it was mostly ineffective against her 19-year-old German foe.

In the opening game, Capriati looked as if she hadn't been away from the tour at all. She won the first point when Huber hit into the net and broke Huber's serve moments later with a deep return that Huber was unable to handle.

"She hit the ball well,"

Huber said. "She made a few mistakes, and I'm sure she'll get better in the next couple of months. She played fine."

Capriati's groundstrokes were sound in the first two sets. She was able to find corners and hit deep forehands, as is her trademark, and stayed with Huber's power for most of the first set until the German won the final two games.

Capriati won the first four games and took the second set when she rushed to the net and returned a drop shot past Huber. She then tired in the final set.

"I'm not in tip-top shape," Capriati said. "She ran me

around a lot."

For Capriati, the match was not about winning and losing, but simply playing — escaping for 89 minutes from a troubled year to play the sport that made her a multimillionaire.

"I had a lot of fun out there," Capriati said. "It was great to get back on the court. It was nice."

Capriati had not played a tournament match since Aug. 31, 1993, when she was eliminated by little-known Leila Meskhi in the first round of the U.S. Open. Her battle since has been much more important than powerful serves and drop shots.

Frustrated with injuries and burned out by tennis,

Capriati left the tour and returned to high school in Florida. Three months later, she was arrested and given a citation for walking away from a department store with a \$15 ring.

Last May, Capriati was arrested for misdemeanor marijuana possession while staying in a Coral Gables, Fla., motel room. Two companions, a 20-year-old man and a 17-year-old runaway, were charged with carrying heroin and crack cocaine.

Yesterday, Capriati appeared much thinner than she did in a police mug shot taken after the May arrest. In that picture, Capriati's face looked bloated and she wore an un-Ca-

priati-like ring in her nose.

"I learned that I really love this game," Capriati said. "I experienced a lot. I got wiser. I learned what makes me happy, and I learned a lot about myself."

The smile that endeared her to the tennis world surfaced during the match, but even that was not the same: it came without the teen-age giddiness.

With 4,500 fans and dozens of media members watching, Capriati concentrated on her match.

"I just want to play my best — whatever that is," she said. "My goal right now isn't to be No. 1. I just want to play."

2042835718

Top seed falls at Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Nathalie Tauziat delivered her best performance of the season yesterday, beating top-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Tauziat used an assortment of drop shots and timely aces to overcome Martinez's power. The final three points came with consecutive backhand slices, including two that trickled off the top of the net, to eliminate the defending champion.

"It's my last tournament of the year, and I have nothing to lose," said Tauziat, who is not seeded. "When I play my best, I can beat anybody."

Tauziat won the first set after breaking serve and taking a 4-3 lead. She went ahead 5-3 with an ace and backhand volley and won the set two games later with an overhead smash.

Martinez won the first game but dropped three straight in the second set. Tauziat went ahead 5-3 by winning four straight service points, including two aces, and used two backhand volleys. She held serve for the match.

"I haven't been playing well at the end of the season," said Martinez, who lost in the first round of last month's Nokia Grand Prix. "She played really a good match. Nathalie was tough."

Jennifer Capriati was to

play for the first time in more than a year. Capriati was to meet No. 6 seed Anke Huber, ranked 13th in the world.

Martinez's loss opens the tournament for No. 2 seed Mary Pierce and No. 3 Lindsay Davenport.

Davenport posted a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Tami Whitlinger-Jones and faces hard-hitting Brenda Schultz in the second round. Schultz's power overwhelmed Pam Shriver en route to a 6-4, 6-0 victory.

Katerina Maleeva also advanced to the second round with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Zina Garrison-Jackson. Chandra Rubin advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Erika de Lone.

2042835719

Chicago Tribune
11/10/94

Capriati back on courts

Loses a 3-set match in Slims

BOON
By Melissa Isaacson
Chicago Tribune

PHILADELPHIA — Her voice is deeper, her eyes more weary than sparkling, and the giggles, that ultimate trademark of child-like innocence, are all but gone now.

Jennifer Capriati may not consider herself "a grownup," but she returned to the women's tennis tour last night in Philadelphia no longer a kid, either.

"I experienced a lot, and I got wiser I think," she said of her 15 months away from the game. "I found out what makes me happy and I learned a lot about myself."

What she learned first and foremost is that she loves the game and that she missed it. And in losing 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to 13th-ranked Anke Huber, she showed she most definitely still has a talent for it.

"My tennis felt a lot stronger, a lot better than my last few tournaments," said Capriati, who said she may play singles again at the Australian Open in January.

Her very last tournament was what she was referring to, though, the one she can't seem to forget. A first-round loss to Leila Meskhi at the '93 U.S. Open sent

See CAPRIATI — Page D8



Associated Press/Simon Bruty

Jennifer Capriati returns a shot during her match in the Virginia Slims Tournament in Philadelphia.

Capriati's back

Loses to Huber in three sets

JN

CAPRIATI — From Page D1

Capriati into a tailspin of self doubt the likes of which she had never before experienced.

Four months later, she was cited for shoplifting a cheap ring in a Tampa mall in December of '93, a case eventually dropped.

A month later, she announced that she had no plans to return to the tour in 1994, and four months after that, Capriati was arrested at a seedy Coral Gables, Fla., motel and charged with possession of marijuana, a case also dropped when she agreed to undergo rehabilitation.

"It wasn't like I was trying to be a rebel or anything," she said yesterday. "What happened in the past is in the past."

And the first step away from that past occurred before a near-sellout crowd of 5,000 people at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

A reluctant grin broke out as she entered the court, the wild applause reaching a crescendo as she approached midcourt. But after that, Capriati was all business. Just as she always was.

Still eager for the next serve, impatient for the next point, she was not so much cautious at first as defensive, allowing Huber to run her from side to side.

Later, sensing her opponent's growing tension, she simply waited for Huber to make the mistakes, which she did as Capriati very nearly ran away with the second at 4-0, before taking it 6-3 on her fourth break of serve in the set.

"She hit the ball well, she received well and she ran pretty well," said Huber. "Oh, maybe she made some mistakes, but I think she played fine."

The Anke Hubers of the world, a player now ranked 13th and certainly no slouch, were also the ones Capriati once took apart.

Last night, however, the energy could not match the desire, strong as it was. Common sense said Capriati probably would wilt in a third set.

And, indeed, her body indeed could not take the stress of the hour and 29-minute match.

2042835720

Capriati Ready For 2nd Chance

By Laura Price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Philadelphia — Jennifer. Jennifer. Jennifer. They are calling from Milan, London and Germany. Suddenly, the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia has become the center of the tennis universe and it's all because of Jennifer Capriati.

She's back.

The sport's prodigal daughter will end a 15-month hiatus in which her saddening spiral from media darling to troubled teen was chronicled publicly after her May 16 arrest for misdemeanor marijuana possession.

Capriati, once ranked as high as No. 6 in the world, received one of two wild cards to enter this tournament and was in town practicing yesterday for tomorrow night's first-round match against sixth seed Anke Huber. She and her entourage, including parents Stefano and Denise, have refused to do interviews before her match. Her only comments came from a statement released yesterday to the media.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in the statement. "In regards to after this tournament and next year, I don't know. I'm just going to take things day by day."

The 18-year-old Capriati checked herself into a 28-day in-patient drug rehabilitation program in Miami Beach after the drug arrest, the first step in her climb back into the life that made her a multimillionaire at age 13. She has not competed since losing to Leila Meskhi in the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open, when she walked off Stadium Court in tears.

Capriati nearly returned for the European Indoors tournament in Zurich, Switzerland, on Oct. 3 after starting serious training in August, but a pulled groin muscle kept her out. It is not surprising she returns this week, considering the Philadelphia Slims tournament is being promoted by her agency, International Management Group, and her agent, Barbara Perry.

Tournament organizers are expecting the largest press contingent in the tournament's four-year history. As for the fest of the field at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, they say they are

happy to see Capriati back on the court.

"I think it's great. She's always been great for tennis," said eighth seed Amanda Coetzer, who was upset yesterday, 6-1, 6-3, in the first round by 16-year-old American upstart Meilen Tu. "[Capriati] has acted pretty responsible from what we've heard the last few months. She's always been sensible on the court."

Tu, who turned pro this year after winning the National Girls 18s Championships, says she doesn't identify with the situation of Capriati and other young stars who burned out early.

"I really don't have to worry about it," Tu said, "because I'm happy every day of my life. If I don't want to play, I'll get off the court."

That's the way it started for a bubbly, gum-chewing 13-year-old named Jennifer Capriati, whom the late Ted Tinling once called "God's gift to American tennis." She became the youngest semifinalist in Grand Slam history at the 1990 French Open when only 14. Capriati knocked on the door of Grand Slam events, reaching the semifinals three times and the quarterfinals six times, but never won. Her most heartbreaking loss came at the 1991 U.S. Open semifinal, when she fell to Monica Seles after twice serving for the match.

What followed was a souring toward tennis and the demands of stardom, even amid Capriati's greatest triumph, a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. By December, 1993, Capriati was arrested for shoplifting a \$15 ring from a Tampa mall. The following March, when she turned 18, Capriati dropped out of her high school and moved out of her parents' home in Saddlebrook, Fla., to live with a friend in Boca Raton and study for her equivalency degree. Reports surfaced she had previously undergone drug rehabilitation and when she was arrested in May at a seedy hotel in Coral Gables, one of her companions claimed Capriati had been smoking crack cocaine. Another said she only had been drinking and taking antidepressants.

Capriati had hit bottom. Her mug shot filled television screens all over the country — another young athlete who couldn't handle the pressure.

Now she will try again.

NEW YORK NEWSDAY

NOVEMBER 7, 1994

2042835721

Triumphant Loss

Capriati falls in three sets, but wins just by playing

By Laura Price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Philadelphia — The tennis world waited 16 months for the moment Jennifer Capriati again would light up a court. It came last night, when she took her first steps onto center stage at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. She peered out from under her baseball cap and smiled.

"It's great to be back," Capriati said. And giggled.

She didn't win her inaugural match of 1994. A sharper Anke Huber, the third seed here at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, outlasted her, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, in a baseline slugfest. It will be Huber, once a 14-year-old prodigy herself, who moves into the second round against Lisa Raymond tonight.

Not that it matters. During her hiatus, Capriati decided she missed tennis. "I learned I really love this game and it doesn't matter to me whether I win or lose," she said. "I experienced a lot. I got wiser and found out what makes me more happy I learned a lot about myself."

Those who have been around Capriati this week say she has matured. "The silver lining of what she's been through is she's come out stronger," said Anne Person Worcester, CEO of the Women's Tennis Association. "She's back because she wants to be back."

Capriati showed she still has the blistering groundstrokes, much to the delight of a partisan near-capacity crowd of about 4,500 that clapped on every one of her points. She admitted feeling a bit fatigued running down Huber's equally potent shots.

"I got tired. I'm not used to running like that," Capriati said.

Both players had trouble holding serve in the first set and Huber finally prevailed on a Capriati forehand that missed wide. But the 18-year-old Floridian-turned-Californian raced to a 4-0 lead in the second set and, up 5-3 at set point, she sprinted toward a soft Huber

drop shot and whipped a topspin forehand winner to take the set.

Huber, who is ranked 13th, toughened in the third and pulled away to a 5-1 advantage. It took three match points before Capriati sailed a backhand long to give Huber the victory.

"From the shots she was the same player," Huber said, "but she didn't play for 15 months, so maybe you don't have the feel for a match."

The road back for Jennifer Capriati will take many matches like this.

Capriati cites her friends, her family and her dog as integral in her life. She declined to talk about the troubled past 15 months and her brushes with the law that included an arrest for misdemeanor marijuana possession, for which she entered a drug rehabilitation program.

"What's in the past is in the past," she said. "I'm here now." But whatever was going on, she said, it was not her battle against The System.

"That was just me," Capriati said. "It wasn't like I was trying to be a rebel or anything." Don't call her a role model either. "I'm just experiencing life for myself. I don't consider myself grown up yet," she said.

The Australian Open may be a possibility, but right now Capriati's second go at tennis will be taken shot by shot, match by match. No pressure, no expectations and no negative thinking about quitting the game if it doesn't workout.

"I just want to try to play my best," she said. "I'm not expecting anything from myself. Right now my goal is not to be No. 1."

Capriati peaked at No. 6 in the world in 1991, a year after she turned pro at age 13. A teenage multimillionaire through endorsements and prize money, by 17 she had banked three Grand Slam semifinals and six quarterfinals in four years. She never has won a major, but Capriati's crowning achievement came in 1992 at the Barcelona Olympics when she won a gold medal.

Life in a fishbowl and its attendant pressure began to eat away at Capriati, and finally she dropped out after losing in the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open to Leila Meskhi.

Capriati's return to life on the tour means jumping back into the fishbowl — "This is kind of weird," she said of talking to the media — it also means she will play by the WTA's rules, which include random drug testing. Tour officials say she will not be treated differently.

"Jennifer will not be tested as a condition of returning to the tour," Worcester said. "She will be tested randomly as any other player."

The WTA tests players at about four to eight tournaments a year (five by the end of 1994) for narcotic analgesics (such as morphine), stimulants, anabolic steroids, diuretics and masking agents. It does not test for recreational drugs such as alcohol, nicotine and marijuana.

Capriati has not tested positive for drugs in her four years on the tour, according to player relations director Jean Nachand.

Her return this week has been triumphant off the court. In the locker room at the convention center adjacent to Reading Terminal hangs a banner signed by all the players here, welcoming her.

Capriati seemed to relish the atmosphere last night. Before leaving the court she signed autographs — "JC" — the way she used to do. Walking out, her rackets in hand, Jennifer Capriati grinned and waved.

It was goodbye, hello, see you soon.

NEW YORK NEWSDAY
NOVEMBER 10, 1994

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Tennis:

Tu upsets Coetzer

Meilen Tu, a 16-year-old high school student from Northridge, Calif., upset Amanda Coetzer, 6-1, 6-3, in the opening round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It was Tu's first professional victory. Coetzer is seeded No. 8 and is ranked No. 16 in the world. No. 2 seed Mary Pierce advanced to the second round with a 6-0, 6-1 rout of Tatiana Ignatiava of Russia.

Defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain is the top seed in the \$750,000 tournament, which continues through Sunday. The tournament will feature Jennifer Capriati's first tournament play in more than a year.

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THURSDAY
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Capriati: 'It's great to be back'

*Loses match
to Huber after
15-month layoff*

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By Sandra McKee
Sun Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati, her face hidden beneath a blue baseball cap with a red bill, her hair in pigtails, smiled only once last night as she returned to pro tennis for the first time in 15 months at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

The smile came as she walked onto the court at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and was greeted by a standing ovation, cheers and whistles.

It was quite a welcome for an 18-year-old who plummeted from a No. 6 world ranking and star status to a wild-card entry, and who, seven months ago, checked herself into a drug-rehabilitation clinic after being arrested and charged with marijuana possession in Florida.

"I've closed the door on the last 14 months," Capriati said. "What's



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"While I was away I learned I really loved the game," said Jennifer Capriati last night.

in the past is in the past. I wasn't trying to be rebellious. I wasn't trying to be a rebel or anything. It was just the way I was.

"But now it's great to be back. Really great to be back playing."

Capriati, an unseeded wild-card entry, faced Anke Huber, the No. 13 player in the world and a woman she had beaten in all four of their previous meetings.

And though Capriati didn't win this time, she learned she is still

competitive and compelling.

She lost to Huber, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, before a crowd of about 4,000, with an additional gathering of nearly 150 print and broadcast media from as far away as Europe and Japan.

Capriati started slowly in the first set, and came on like a comet in the second before finally fading in the third.

"I got tired," she admitted. "I'm not used to that much running and

I'm not in tip-top condition. But my tennis felt a lot stronger than when I last played."

Her bruising, two-handed backhand is intact and when she streaked from deep in the backcourt to catch up to a Huber drive shot for a stretched out cross-court forehand winner to take the second set, it was apparent most of the rest of her game is too.

See CAPRIATI, 3C

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Baltimore SUN
11/10/94

TENNIS

CAPRIATI: She's on way back

From Page 1C

"I think her shots are the same," said Huber. "But she is just missing the feeling for the match. She has missed 15 months. You can practice, but you cannot get the match feel without the match play. I think once she has that, she is going to be the same player again."

Capriati is at this tournament with former touring pro Jose Higuera, who coaches Jim Courier.

He and Capriati met about four weeks ago at a Palm Springs tennis club and he has been helping her since, though he says he is not her coach.

"She's out here to have a good time and compete," said Higuera. "She's hitting the ball well, but she hasn't played in 15 months."

Capriati, who turned pro at 13, had been the darling of the women's pro tennis world: A *Sports Illustrated* cover story, a finalist in her first pro tournament in 1990, a French Open semifinalist at 14.

By 1991 she ranked among the top 40 highest paid athletes in the world, with \$20 million in earnings and sponsors paying her an additional \$5 million annually. In 1992, she won a gold medal at the Olympics in Barcelona.

Then came a December 1993 reprimand for allegedly shoplifting a \$15 ring at a store in Tampa, Fla.

Last March she moved into her own apartment in Florida, while a high school senior, and began hanging out with drug users.

In May, she was arrested on marijuana possession charges, was abandoned by all her sponsors and checked into a drug-rehab center.

Afterward, she moved, with her family, to Palm Springs.

And now, still only 18, she is taking her first step in her comeback.

"I think it's tremendous she's coming back already," said Lindsay Davenport, an 18-year-old, who didn't turn pro until she was 16.

By the time Capriati was 16, she had already been a semifinalist in three Grand Slam tournaments.

"I didn't think she'd try to come back until next year," said Davenport. "But I've spent some time with her here and I think she's ready to come back. She has a different attitude, a different approach. She's here without her parents and I think that's a major step. Tennis isn't a family project — at least it shouldn't be."

"My dad still worked when I turned pro," said Davenport. "He didn't want all his eggs in one basket with me. He still works — so does my mom. Tennis isn't something every member of the family has to be a part of."

But Capriati's family was involved. Once Capriati turned pro at 13, her father's only job was managing his daughter's career and her earnings supported the family. Her family wasn't at this tournament, but she said it is because she wanted to keep her return as simple as possible.

"While I was away," she said, "I learned I really loved the game and that it doesn't matter if I win or lose. I want to compete again. I think what I've been through has made me wiser. I found out what I like. And tonight, I had a lot of fun just playing. It was nice to be on the court again."

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THE SUN

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BURRELLE'S

Huber tops Pierce, wins Slims title

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From Wire Reports

Anke Huber nearly blew a 4-0 lead in the third set yesterday but settled down to defeat Mary Pierce, 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, for the championship of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

The 19-year-old Huber, ranked

SPORTS BRIEFLY

13th in the world, earned \$150,000 in her third victory of the season. She has not had a coach since September, yet has won two tournaments since then.

■ Pete Sampras used his big serve to complete a perfect tune-up for the World Championships, as he beat Magnus Larsson, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, to retain his \$1.1 million European Community Championship title at Antwerp, Belgium. Sampras won \$156,000, Larsson \$93,000.

Sampras, the world's No. 1 player, didn't lose a set during the week.

■ Alexander Volkov of Russia won the \$1.1 million Kremlin Cup in Moscow, defeating Chuck Adams of the United States, 6-2, 6-4. Both players were unseeded in the event.

■ Alex Corretja of Spain won his first ATP Tour title, defeating Javier Frana of Argentina, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), in the final of the \$313,000 Topper Open in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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SPORT 2

LAWN TENNIS / Disgraced prodigy tells of desperate torment and sense of failure

Capriati back in limelight with a rebellious streak

By Barry Wood in Philadelphia

JENNIFER Capriati would probably have preferred to make her comeback at an obscure satellite tournament in the Australian outback, away from an intrigued tennis community and worldwide media interest, but she knows there is no place she can hide.

So it is that after a groin strain aborted her original and curious decision to return in Zurich, where the world press was gathered for the professional debut of Swiss protégé Martina Hingis, she will step on court this week for her first match since the 1993 US Open to face Anke Huber at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

The spirit of rebellion that last May led to her arrest for possession of marijuana was in evidence as she practised in Palm Desert, California. The rings had gone from her nose and navel, only to be replaced with one on her toe. Her hair was streaked with purple and her shorts bore a fashionable and defiant tear.

Her breakdown occurred because, having been told she was the best, coming second took its toll as she lost her self-esteem.

"I was always expected to be at the top, and if I didn't win, to me, that meant I was a loser. If I played terrible, I thought I could handle it, but really I couldn't. I felt no-one liked me," she said.

"I was depressed and sad and lonely and guilty. I felt I'd give up all the material things to be with someone who would love me for me."

So after her devastating first-round loss to Leila

Meskhi at Flushing Meadows, she walked away from tennis and her family, moving into her own apartment.

"I burnt out," she admitted. "I spent a week in bed in darkness, just hating everything. When I looked in the mirror I saw this distorted image. I was so ugly and so fat I just wanted to kill myself. I'm not an addict to drugs, but you could say I was an addict to my own pain. I had this sarcasm about everything."

But Capriati, still only 18, did not hate tennis and, after a long break, she began practising again.

"When I thought about the [Grand] Slams I always thought I'd be there again. It's just a game to me now, and I am playing because I have the desire and the talent to play. I don't want to leave tennis the way I did, crying and crawling away."

While the spotlight falls this week on Capriati, another young American has begun to make her presence felt. California's Meilen Tu, 16, overcame 16th-ranked Amanda Coetzer, of South Africa, 6-1, 6-3.

Another seed, Amy Frazier, lost 6-1, 6-1 to the talented but unpredictable Chanda Rubin, but Natalia Zvereva survived with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Meredith McGrath.

WTA T'MENT (Philadelphia).—1st rd (US unless stated): M Tu bt A Coetzer (S Africa) 6-1, 6-3; J Kruger (S Africa) bt S Stafford 6-3, 6-3; K Po bt M A Vento (Venezuela) 6-4, 1-6, 7-5; M Pierce (France) bt T Ignatieva (Belarus) 6-0, 6-1; L Raymond bt S Cacic 2-6, 7-6, 7-5; P Fendick bt M Werdel 6-2, 6-4; E de Lone bt M Paz (Argentina) 6-3, 6-2; C Rubin bt A Frazier 6-1, 6-1; N Zvereva (Belarus) bt M McGrath 6-4, 6-3; J Halard (France) bt L Harvey-Wild 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.



Jennifer Capriati... rings gone from her nose and navel Picture: LIONEL CIRONNEAU

Australian snub for Williams

AMERICAN prodigy Venus Williams is likely to be prevented from playing in the Australian Open, her first Grand Slam event.

Williams, 14, made her professional debut in California last month. She joined the Women's Tennis Association Tour before the enforcement of new rules applying an age limit of 16 on the circuit.

She has indicated that she wants a wild card for the New South Wales Open, the lead-up Sydney event to January's Australian Open, but Open tournament director Paul McNamee said yesterday that while he had not received any request for a special

entry for Williams, he could not support granting one as Tennis Australia are keen to support the recent age ruling of the Women's Tennis Council.

● A sluggish Pete Sampras had to work harder than expected in Antwerp last night to earn a 7-6, 6-4 victory in the first round of the European Community Championship against a Belgian wild-card entry.

The world No 1 had to struggle through a tie-breaker before finally winning the contest against Johan Van Herck, 20, in 1hr 21min.

Details: Page 43

REUTER NEWS REPORT

NEW YORK, NY
DAILY

THURSDAY
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*Navratilova opens against Sabatini at Slims Championship@
PHILADELPHIA (Reuter) - Martina Navratilova Thursday drew
Gabriela Sabatini as her first-round opponent in next week's
Virginia Slims Championships, the final singles tournament of
the 38-year-old Navratilova's 19-year career.

Navratilova, ranked No. 6 in the world, will face the
ninth-ranked Sabatini of Argentina Tuesday night at Madison
Square Garden, preceding a ceremony honoring Navratilova.

The draw was conducted at the Slims of Philadelphia event.
The \$3.5 million Slims Championships, matching the top 16
singles players and top eight doubles teams on the WTA TOUR,
will run Nov. 14-20 at the Garden.

Defending champion Steffi Graf, who withdrew from this
week's Philadelphia tournament because of recurring back
problems, is seeded No. 1. The German will face Brenda Schultz
of the Netherlands in the first round.

Second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, the French and
U.S. Open champion, last year's runnerup at the Slims
Championship, drew France's Julie Halard.

The other pairings are (index number denotes seeding):
Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) vs 5-Mary Pierce (France); 4-Jana
Novotna (Czech Republic) vs Iva Majoli (Croatia); Anke Huber
(Germany) vs 7-Lindsay Davenport (U.S.); 8-Kimiko Date (Japan)
vs Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria), and Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)
vs 3-Conchita Martinez (Spain).

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REUTER NEWS REPORT

NEW YORK, NY
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*Tennis-Schultz upsets Davenport at Slims of Philadelphia@

(Eds: corrects Schultz's nationality)

PHILADELPHIA (Reuter) - Unseeded Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands was the upset winner of a battle of big servers at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Thursday, dumping third-seeded American Lindsay Davenport.

Schultz advanced to the quarterfinals with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 second-round victory over Davenport in the final tune-up for next week's Virginia Slims Championships.

Schultz and Davenport are both first-time qualifiers for the 16-player season finale.

Second seed Mary Pierce and fourth seed Gabriela Sabatini both rolled into the quarterfinals with the loss of just four games each.

Pierce turned back American Patty Fendick 6-3, 6-1, while Sabatini stopped Joannette Kruger of South Africa 6-4, 6-0.

In a meeting of two of the strongest players on the women's tour, Schultz slammed 11 aces in the match and dropped just four points on her serve in the middle set.

"In the second set I was getting in a groove and serving better," Schultz said. "The key against Lindsay is to mix it up and to keep the ball away from her, make her run and reach for it."

In the third set, Schultz came to the net to force a backhand error by Davenport on break point at 4-4, then served out the match in the next game, cracking two of her 11 aces on the first two points.

"You just try to get enough balls in play to make her miss, but I wasn't doing that," Davenport said.

Sixteen-year-old American Meilen Tu, the U.S. Open junior champion playing just her second tournament as a professional, upset 36th-ranked Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3.

Tu, who picked off eighth-seeded South African Amanda Coetzer on Monday, was consistent from the baseline and used a service break in each set to oust the more experienced Bulgarian.

France's Nathalie Tauziat, who upset top-seeded defending champion Conchita Martinez on Wednesday, fell to American Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in another second-round match.

The loss ended Tauziat's chance of qualifying for next week's tournament.

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Tennis-Pierce leads seeds into semifinals in Philadelphia
PHILADELPHIA (Reuter) - Shaking off the effects of a cold and the hard groundstrokes of 16-year-old American Meilen Tu, second seed Mary Pierce of France advanced to the semifinals of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament Friday.

Pierce held off the U.S. Open junior champion 6-2, 6-4 as four seeded players posted straight sets wins over unseeded opponents in Friday's quarter-final action.

Fourth-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, fifth seed Natalia Zvereva of Belarus and sixth-seeded German Anke Huber claimed the other three semifinal berths.

Sabatini, who is attempting to end a title drought that goes back to the 1992 Italian Open, dropped just three games in turning back American Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-0 despite committing a whopping 13 double faults in a sloppy match.

Zvereva stopped Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-1, 7-6 and Huber, who played until after midnight on Thursday, came back to beat American Kimberly Po 6-3, 6-2.

"I was a little bit tired, but it was okay," Huber said.

Pierce, the French Open runner-up still looking for her first title of the year, will face Zvereva, while Huber takes on Sabatini in Saturday's semifinals.

Pierce, who has been battling a cold all week, started quickly against a visibly nervous Tu, playing just her second tournament as a professional.

The Canadian-born French woman jumped out to a 3-0 lead and took the first set in 25 minutes, converting all three of her break point opportunities.

Tu fought back to 3-4 from 3-0 down in the second set. But neither player was able to hold serve the rest of the way and Pierce ended the match by slamming a backhand service return for a break on match point.

"I did the same thing in the first and second sets," Pierce said. "I went up 3-0 and then I lost some games on careless mistakes. She also hit some pretty good shots in those games," Pierce said.

Zvereva continued her mastery of Schultz to raise her record against the Dutch woman to a perfect 7-0.

The big-serving Schultz belted 11 aces past Zvereva, but was undone by 27 unforced errors in the 73-minute match.

Rubin repeatedly failed to take advantage of Sabatini's inconsistency as she converted just one of 11 break points against the Argentine.

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*Capriati loses in first match in more than a year@

PHILADELPHIA (Reuter) - Former teen-age sensation Jennifer Capriati, playing in her first tournament after a turbulent year of personal troubles, showed flashes of her former brilliance but lost in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament Wednesday.

Capriati, now 18, took Anke Huber to three sets in the \$750,000 event before the German prevailed 6-4 3-6 6-1.

Capriati, one of the premier players in the world when she was just 15, stumbled from grace after being arrested twice -- last December for shoplifting (charges were dropped) and in May for marijuana possession.

After Wednesday's match, Capriati indicated she is hoping to play in next year's Australian Open, but stopped short of saying she planned to return to a full tour schedule in 1995.

"I'm trying to play my best. I'm really not expecting anything for myself," Capriati said. "My goal isn't to be number one or anything, it's to just play and see how I do."

Capriati was to have played her first match at a tournament in Switzerland last month, but was sidelined by a groin injury. She received a wild-card entry to the Philadelphia event, which is operated by International Management Group (IMG), which also represents Capriati.

Capriati's return overshadowed unseeded Nathalie Tauziat of France, who upset top-seed and defending champion Conchita Martinez earlier on Wednesday 6-4 6-4.

In another afternoon match, American Lindsay Davenport, seeded third, defeated Tami Whitlinger-Jones 7-5 6-3.

Capriati took the court to a standing ovation from the crowd at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. She quickly broke Huber in the first game, demonstrating the powerful groundstrokes that carried her to number-six ranking in 1991. But Huber went on to win the set in 34 minutes, breaking Capriati three times.

"It was great to be out there playing again," Capriati said. "My tennis felt better and stronger than in the last few matches I played (in 1993)."

Capriati jumped to a 3-0 lead in the second set, and converted her first set point at 5-3 when she ran down a drop shot by Huber and hit a crosscourt forehand winner, bringing the crowd to its feet again.

Huber used two service breaks to take a 4-0 lead in the third set, then watched Capriati hit a forehand long on the third match point at 5-1.

"I missed some easy balls. I think I was too tense," Huber said. "I think I wanted to play too good. But I played much more confident in the third set."

"When you don't play for 15 months maybe you don't have a feel for the match. But her shots were the same. If she practices and plays a few more matches she's going to be the same player."

Tauziat, who is ranked 39th, defeated the No. 3-ranked Martinez, the defending Wimbledon champion, using a varied attack that included several well-timed net approaches.

"Conchita passes really well, so I waited for the good balls to do it, when I had the chance," Tauziat said. "This is my last (singles) tournament of the year, and I'm playing the number-one seed so I have nothing to lose here. When I play my best tennis I feel I can beat anybody, and today I played one of my best matches of the year."

Leading 5-4 in the first set, Tauziat handcuffed Martinez with a big first serve on set point and volleyed a forehand winner to win the set. The players then traded service breaks in the first six games of the second set before Tauziat came to the net and forced Martinez into a backhand error on break point to take a 4-3 lead.

Serving at 5-4, 30-love, Tauziat hit two successive net cords, the second on match point, leaving Martinez shaking her head in disbelief.

"I haven't been playing well at the end of the year, and I wish I knew why," Martinez said. "I didn't play too bad today. I was hitting the ball well and serving alright, but she was just tough."

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SIMON BRUTY—ALL SPORT FOR TIME



Once Sullen, Now Spirited

Tennis star **JENNIFER CAPRIATI** returned to competition last week without the nose ring and troubled mien that signified her celebrated adolescent rebellion. Capriati abandoned the sport 14 months ago because she sought anonymity, but she ended up all over the news after she was arrested for marijuana possession. At the Virginia Slims tournament in Philadelphia, the crowd cheered her in a match against Germany's Anke Huber. She lost, but her spirits were undefeated. "I learned I really love this game," she said of her hiatus.

SEEN & HEARD

How does the Heidi Fleiss trial resemble the Gulf War? Ask former celebrity madam

Sydney Biddle Barrows.



The socialite and sometime lecturer on relationships will cover the trial of her reputed counterpart from L.A. "If you want an expert on war, you get a retired general," says Barrows, who will provide commentary for the cable network America's Talking. "I'm not exactly a general, but I am retired."

JORDAN—CELEBRITY PHOTO; BASKIN—ONYX

Once the embodiment of girl-ish innocence, **Nancy Kerrigan** has an image that's been sullied ever since the Olympics. Perceived as a sore loser to gold medalist Oksana Baiul and ungrateful to sponsors, Kerrigan must now contend

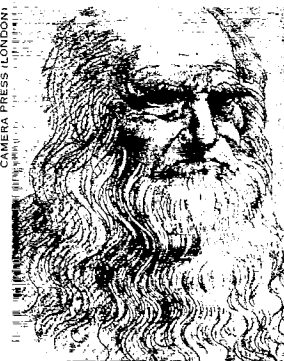


with accusations that she broke up the marriage of her agent, Jerry Solomon. Divorced two weeks ago, he denied those rumors but admitted that he and his client are dating.

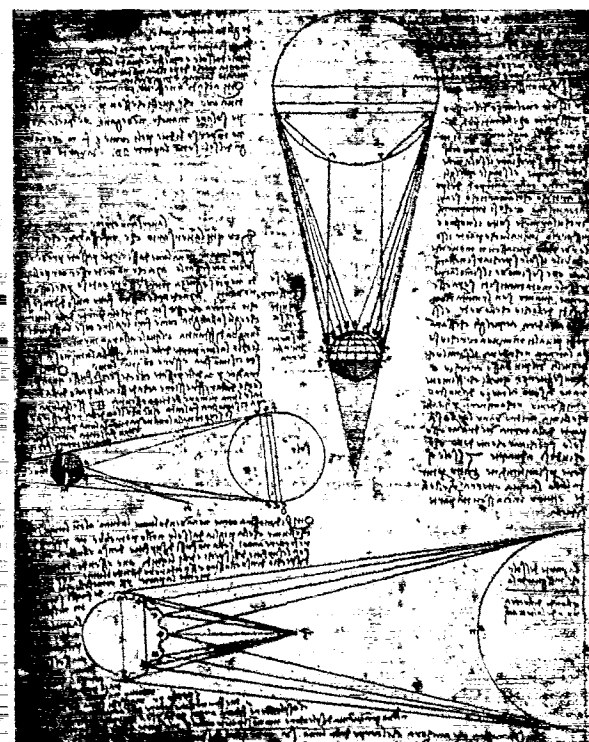
Two Geniuses, One Book

For the past 277 years, *Codex*—an illustrated collection of **LEONARDO DA VINCI'S** scientific writings—has had just two owners: the Leicesters, a gentried British family; and former industrialist, lady's man and onetime KGB accomplice Armand Hammer. But now the 16th century collection of forward-looking musings has landed in the possession of a soul Leonardo might have found more kindred. At a Christie's auction in New York City last week, Renaissance nerd and Microsoft chairman **BILL GATES** anonymously won an intense bidding war against an Italian competitor. A billionaire nine times over, Gates landed his prize for \$30.8 million, the highest price ever paid for a manuscript sold at auction. Now he can study Leonardo's explanation for why the sky is blue.

CAMERA PRESS (LONDON)



JOE SIMA



CHRISTIE'S/AP

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Bruce Handy

Happy Days Are Here Again

THE DAY AFTER ELECTIONS LAST WEEK, FACING INTERVIEWERS on the White House lawn, chief of staff Leon Panetta looked even more Oscar Levant-like than usual as he tried to put the best face on a vote that hadn't really gone the Administration's way. While other commentators, overwhelmed at the turn of events, had been forced to consult thesauruses in an effort to find synonyms for "wholesale repudiation" and "visceral disgust," Panetta had a slightly different take. Bill Clinton had been elected on a platform of change, Panetta explained, and now the voters had expressed a desire for even more change—in other words, the historic rejection of Democratic candidates was in some sense an extension of the Clinton mandate. That afternoon the President gave matters his own spin: It wasn't that voters were upset about what his Administration had done; rather, they were angry that they didn't feel more involved in the governmental process.

Ah, yes. More face time with politicians—that's what voters really want! Once you get going in this gently revisionist vein, as the Administration no doubt hopes you will, it becomes clear that there are many previously undiscovered reasons why this election was, in fact, a Democratic boon:

- No incumbent Republican Governors, U.S. Senators or Representatives were defeated. Scores of Democratic officeholders were dumped. Clearly the Democrats are more in tune with the nation's mood of anti-incumbency.
- Only 39% of voting-age Americans voted. Therefore it's mathematically possible that 61% of voting-age Americans actually approve of Administration policies. And don't forget kids.
- Exit polling showed that Democrats drew a plurality among elderly voters. As all Americans are growing older, this trend bodes well for the party.
- Democrats can now refer to members of the G.O.P. as "Sonny Bono Republicans."
- Arthur Schlesinger Jr. has posited that the American political mood sometimes evolves in 30-year cycles, swinging from activism to conservatism and back again. But consider the electorate's volatility during the past three years, from 1991, when George Bush's approval ratings were at historic highs, to Bill Clinton's election to the recent Republican landslide. Evidence indicates that we are operating under 30-week or possibly even 30-day cycles. Thus the odds are virtually even that November

1996 will hit an activist phase. A caveat: the Leap Year Day in February 1996 may invalidate these calculations.

- Democrats also lost control of both houses of Congress in elections in 1946—and Harry Truman went on to defeat Tom Dewey two years later. A caveat: Republicans show no inclination to nominate a presidential candidate with a mustache.
- The new Congress will probably have 47 Democratic Senators and 204 Democratic Representatives. Forty-seven plus 204 is 251. Two plus 5 plus 1 is 8. Rumor has it that 8 is Dee Dee Myers' lucky number. This too bodes well for 1996.
- The results of Virginia's Senate race indicate that the President will be insulated from political fallout should disgruntled state

troopers ever reveal that he got a back rub from Tai Collins.

- Another time a Speaker of the House was voted out of office was in 1860, when William Pennington lost his re-election bid; at the same time, however, a member of the same party, Abraham Lincoln, was elevated to the presidency. A caveat: Lincoln's nickname wasn't "Slick Abe."

- Ann Richards is now free to star in the next Linda Bloodworth-Thomas sitcom.

- The elevation of the pumpkin-like Newt Gingrich to national prominence as Speaker of the House will distract late night comedians from the President's weight problem.

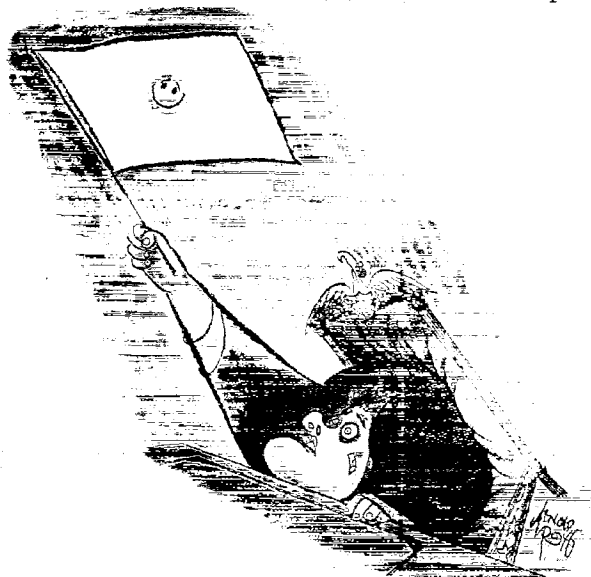
- The elevation of Alfonse D'Amato and Jim Leach to the chairmanships of the Senate and the House banking committees ensures that Whitewater hearings will bedevil the White House for the next two years. The good news: the exposure of the pathetic, somewhat shady attempts to get rich quick will help convince voters that the President and First Lady are normal Americans.

- Losing the ability to shape the legislative process means Clinton will have more time to concentrate on the finer things in life, like making lots of sightseeing trips to New Hampshire.

- The rise of a new Republican "Solid South" means future Democratic presidential candidates will no longer have to pretend to enjoy stock-car racing. There is a dilemma for Clinton, however, in the fact that there is also no more political capital to be gained in eating prodigious amounts of cooter.

- Despite the success of the "Contract with America," the media are unlikely to popularize the word Gingrichonomics.

- The new lines in George Stephanopoulos' face give him some *gravitas*. ■

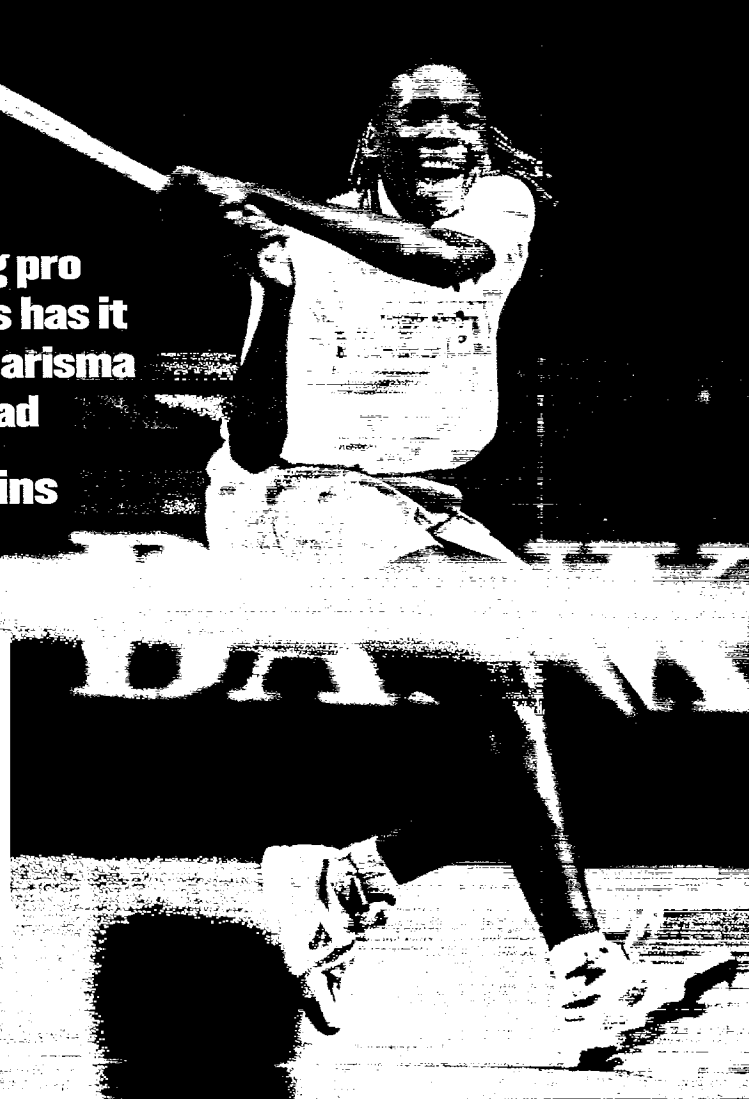


ARNOLD ROTH FOR TIME

TENNIS

Venus Rising

At 14, fledgling pro Venus Williams has it all—talent, charisma and a tennis dad
by Sally Jenkins



IT WOULD be easier to call Venus Williams a revolutionary if she didn't come with a lawyer, an accountant, a stockbroker and an omnipresent tennis father. So just call her an incandescent talent, a budding icon in cornrows who has the audacity to say, "I think I can change the game"—and might have the gifts to back those words up.

Only 14, Williams already has an image as mysterious as Greta Garbo's—largely because, until last week, her father, Rich-

ard, hadn't permitted her to play in public in three years. Further, Richard had repeatedly insisted that he would never allow his daughter to turn pro at such a young age as 14. Any parent who would, he said, "should be shot." Well, Venus made her professional debut at a tour event in Oakland, Calif., last week and caused a sensation when she defeated the world's 59th-ranked player, Shaun Stafford, in straight sets and then had second-ranked Arantxa Sánchez Vicario down a

set and a service break before succumbing 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Regrettably, Williams's debut was as disheartening as it was momentous. This, after all, was the girl who was supposed to be different, who would buck the trend and refuse to turn pro so early. Instead, by playing in Oakland, Williams slipped in under the wire: Girls under 18 who turn pro after this year will be limited to a handful of pro events. The rule is based on a recommendation by a Women's Tennis Council-appointed panel, which found that the tour makes a variety of unhealthy demands on young girls.

There is ample evidence for that conclusion, most notably the case of Jennifer Capriati, who recently completed a stint in a Miami Beach drug rehab center. No sooner had Williams made her mark against Sánchez Vicario than Capriati, herself a onetime 14-year-old phenom, announced she would enter this week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It was to be her first tournament since the 1993 U.S. Open. In short, Capriati is attempting a comeback at 18.

Is Williams tough enough to avoid flameout? Labeled a "Cinderella of the ghetto" by her father, she emerged from a public park in Compton, Calif., where, according to Richard, gang members guarded the grounds while Venus and her younger sister, Serena, who's also being groomed for tennis greatness, practiced with dead balls on cracked courts. Shortly after Venus won the Southern California girls' 12-and-under title

at age 10, Richard moved the family to Florida so Venus and Serena could train with Rick Macci, who immediately put the two girls on scholarship just as he had former pupils Capriati and Mary Pierce.

Venus's tennis upbringing has been unique in one important aspect. Her father withdrew her from junior tennis in 1991 and, citing the toxic pressures of an overheated system, announced that she would not play any more junior tournaments. That decision was viewed with

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Hoard galloped for 123 yards, the best performance by a Cleveland running back in seven years.

into the game with a badly bruised right biceps, that's exactly what Hoard did—21 carries for 123 yards, both career highs, and two catches for 12 yards, one of which, early in the fourth quarter, went for the Browns' only touchdown. "Tired? Yeah, I guess so," he said afterward. "But it's really no big deal. It's just good for me to show people that, given the opportunity, I'll do the job."

The weather conditions were just right for a brawl in the trenches, which was fine with Patriot coach Bill Parcells. He has wanted to get a running game going all year but has had little success. On Sunday the hammer finally started to fall, as 248-pound Marion Butts (25 carries, 86 yards) banged away behind 230-pound fullback Kevin Turner. The Brown defense, which had been on the field for an average of 72 snaps over the previous four games, came into this game heavy-legged, and the absence of tackle Michael Dean Perry, who injured his shoulder against Denver, cut into the defensive line rotation.

Cleveland clung to a 3-0 lead at the half, but its defense sealed the win in the last two quarters. The Browns mustered a goal line stand in the third period—the Pats had a first down at the five and

wound up with a field goal—and then stopped New England on downs on the Pats' next possession. Rypien then immediately took Cleveland on an 80-yard drive that ended with Hoard's touchdown. Just over three minutes later, after Brown cornerback Tim Jacobs picked off a Bledsoe pass at the New England 38, Matt Stover kicked a 41-yard field goal for a 13-3 Cleveland lead.

"Typical Giants Stadium slugfest, right?" said outside linebacker Carl Banks, one of two imports from the Giant defense that Belichick coached under Parcells in the late 1980s. And the win over the Pats did bear the imprint of Parcells. Belichick learned one valuable lesson from his mentor: When you've got a hole to fill, you make your move right away, whether it's through the draft or free agency or the cut list, and you gear it to the people you'll be facing. That approach is the key to the Browns' success this year.

In June, Belichick brought in Banks, who had traveled from the Giants to the Redskins, where he fell out of favor. "I came with a lot of heavy baggage," Banks says. "Hopefully all that baggage is behind me now."

Says Belichick, "I knew I was going to be playing against more than half the quality tight ends in the league. So I figured I'd better get Carl Banks. He can still

jack up a tight end as well as any linebacker in football. I didn't want to be sitting here facing the Steelers twice a year, with Barry Foster running behind [tight end] Eric Green, and not be able to stop them. It's like when [Parcells] stockpiled guards every season with the Giants. Hey, he had to face Jerome Brown of the Eagles twice a year. Who's going to block him?"

The Parcells theory of building strength in the middle hasn't been neglected either. Belichick's first three first-round draft choices were all down the pipe: safety Eric Turner, who intercepted two passes on Sunday and is having an All-Pro year; fullback Tommy Vardell, who was sidelined for the year with a knee injury in Game 5 but who certainly supplied the blocking muscle that was needed; and Everitt, one of the league's fine young centers.

And to lead his defense, a year ago Belichick added middle linebacker Pepper Johnson, another Giant who moved into New York coach Dan Reeves's doghouse but who, says Belichick, "is having a better year than the one [1990] that got him into the Pro Bowl."

Are the Browns ready to mount a Super Bowl challenge? Check back after the next two weeks—they play both the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs on the road. We could be looking at a Cincinnati, or just another pipe dream. ■

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Virginia Slims of Philadelphia

Nov. 7-13

First round	Second round	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Finals
1 Conchita Martinez	Nathalie Tauziat			
Kimberly Po				
Maria Vento				
Lisa Raymond				
Sandra Cacic				
Jennifer Capriati				
6 Anke Huber				
4 Gabriela Sabatini				
Jana Nejedly				
Joannette Kruger				
Shaun Stafford				
Lori McNeil				
Erica deLone				
Chanda Rubin				
7 Amy Frazier				
5 Natalie Zvereva				
Meredith McGrath				
Linda Harvey-Wild				
Julie Halard				
Brenda Schultz				
Pam Shriver				
Tami Whitlinger-Jones				
3 Lindsay Davenport				
8 Amanda Coetzer				
Meilen Tu				
Katerina Maleeva				
Zina Garrison-Jackson				
Patty Fendick				
Marianne Werdel				
Tatiana Ignatieva				
2 Mary Pierce				

In Phila. stop, Capriati is center of attention

Martinez is favored to repeat as champ. But Davenport and Sabatini might bear watching.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

The absolutely totally overwhelmingly dominating presence in this Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament is going to be Jennifer Capriati.

Her first match against No. 6 seed Anke Huber, either tomorrow or Wednesday at the Convention Center, is going to be dissected, analyzed and scrutinized until we all wonder why the poor girl decided to play tennis again for the first time in 15 months.

When it was announced that Capriati would make her comeback here last week, the tournament received requests for credentials from journalists in Milan and Paris as well as from all over the United States.

So this \$750,000 tournament is guaranteed one match that will make ESPN, CNN and the satellite feed worldwide.

And then there's the rest of the tournament. And that's not bad, either.

Conchita Martinez, ranked No. 3 in the world and the defending champion, is seeded first and favored to win again now that top-ranked Steffi Graf pulled out Friday with her chronically sore back. Graf was able to hit some serves and ground strokes out on the streets during the David Letterman show Friday, but she has chosen to stay in New York and receive treatment in the hope that she will be ready for the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships next week at Madison Square Garden.

On the opposite side of the draw is No. 2 seed Mary Pierce, the 19-year-old who grew up in the United States and claims French citizenship, and who, when she is playing well, has the most exciting game on the tour with her power and emotion.

But it is the Nos. 3 and 4 seeds who might bear special watching.

Lindsay Davenport hopes this is the beginning of a very special time in her tennis game. Davenport, seeded No. 3, is 18, out of high school, and now committed full time to the tennis tour. She has been working out with trainers in San Francisco on her biggest flaw: conditioning.

Davenport is 6-foot-2, and she is, of all things, a baseliner. Davenport

will admit with charm and a giggle that this is unexpected, and she knows that, if she put her mind to it, and got in great shape so she could move quicker and get to the net and speed up her serve, she could be a very special player.

The thing is, Davenport can be excused for her slow physical development. She opted for high school, and graduation, parties and proms. Now she is a full-time tennis player. "I want to get in better and better shape," Davenport said. "I want to begin to get a net game."

When asked if she was looking toward next year, Davenport answered quickly: "Not next year. Now. I'm looking forward to doing well in Philadelphia, and this is the first time I've qualified for the [Slims] championship in New York, and I'm really excited about that and about playing at the Garden."

If you're looking for a rooting interest, perhaps you could choose Gabriela Sabatini, the No. 4 seed. Sabatini, 24, is perpetually optimistic, the player with the nicest smile and most sincere personality. She won the 1990 U.S. Open, and that was supposed to be the start of a sparkling Grand Slam career for the Argentine. But Sabatini has never won another Grand Slam and, in fact, she hasn't won a tournament of any kind since the Italian Open in the spring of 1992.

Sabatini said this hasn't dulled her enjoyment of tennis or her confidence. She said she still expects to win every week.

Also in the 32-woman draw this week are locally trained Lisa Raymond of Wayne and Meilen Tu, a 16-year-old American who turned pro this fall after beating 14-year-old phenom Martina Hingis in the U.S. Open junior championship in September.

Today's schedule

Seedings in parentheses.

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Singles

Joannette Kruger vs. Shaun Stafford; Kimberly Po vs. Maria Alejandra Vento; Amanda Coetzer (8) vs. Meilen Tu.

Doubles

Amy Frazier-Kimberly Po vs. Patty Fendick-Meredith McGrath (2); doubles qualifying final

Not before 7 p.m.

Mary Pierce (2) vs. Tatiana Ignatieva; Lisa Raymond vs. Sandra Cacic.

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Sports

Section D

Sports
Cover

Tuesday, November 8, 1994

Few pay attention as tennis teen prevails for the first time as a pro

Meilen Tu, an ancient 16, ambushed Amanda Coetzer at an all-but-empty Convention Center.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Meilen Tu, who is 16 years old, got her first victory as a professional tennis player yesterday.

Maybe 100 people watched Tu upset No. 8 seed Amanda Coetzer, 6-1, 6-3, in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

This was not like the recent professional debuts of two 14-year-olds, Martina Hingis and Venus Williams, when the whole world watched and wondered: Can they hack it despite the kinds of pressures and problems that caused Jennifer Capriati so much trouble?

Tu, at 16 already, is hardly worthy of notice. She is tiny and seems frag-

ile, except when she hits the ball, and then there is nothing fragile about her.

In an empty expanse of tennis court and seats without people in them, you could hear the slam of her racket against the ball and you almost had to plug your ears, the noise was so sharp.

In 1 hour, 8 minutes, Tu made Coetzer — the South African who is 23, ranked No. 16 in the world and needed to do well here in order to save herself a spot in next week's season-ending Virginia Slims Championship in New York — look slow and old and clumsy.

Tu's forehand, a big, sweeping stroke, had Coetzer baffled and moving until Tu left herself enough open

court to hit a winner. And Tu's backhand was deceptive, a low shot that had Coetzer lunging and leaving the returns short. Tu even won some easy points off a serve that wasn't very hard but was well-placed.

Tu is a grunter and a giggler. She said after the match that she was nervous and wanted to get off to a good start. The good start was winning the first set in 21 minutes.

Tu made her professional debut last week in Oakland, where she lost to Meredith McGrath, 6-3, 6-4, in the first round. Turning pro, she said, was not a wrenching decision to abandon the chance for a normal teenage life and play tennis all over the world for money.

"I'd been considering this pretty much the whole summer," she said. "Everybody is so focused on all the bad things that happen and doesn't talk about all the top-10 players who

See **TENNIS** on D5



Second-seeded Mary Pierce going against Tatiana Ignatieva of Belarus in the opening round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. Pierce needed all of 46 minutes to advance with a 6-0, 6-1 victory.

Source: <https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/tkw10000>

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1 of 3

Few pay attention as a teen prevails for first time as pro

TENNIS from D1
turned pro when they were 14 and nothing bad happens."

If makes her happy, Tu said, that Capriati is playing pro tennis again, and what happened to Capriati — the traumas and pressures that caused her to take 15 months off — doesn't worry Tu at all.

Already, Tu is involved in independent study. During her sophomore year in high school in Northern California, her teachers didn't approve of her extensive traveling to compete on the junior circuit. Now she is a senior and happy with her academic progress and tennis progress.

And she doesn't mind being ignored.

"It doesn't matter to me," she said. "It's not something I look for. I just come out and play, and whoever is there, fine."

Then Tu walked away from the microphone and giggled as she took her rackets and left with her mother.

Notes. One other seed played yesterday. Second-seeded Mary Pierce won the first set in 18 minutes against Tatiana Ignatieva of Belarus last night and won the match, 6-0, 6-1, in 46 minutes. ... Lisa Raymond of Wayne, Pa., who played in the second night match in front of a partisan crowd, was down by 5-0 in the first set ... led by 4-0 in the third set ... got tied at 5-5 in the third set ... and finally beat 20-year-old Sandra Cacic, 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5. If Jennifer Capriati were to upset No. 6 seed Anke Huber tomorrow night, Raymond would play Capriati in the second round. ... Tonight's featured match will pit No. 4 seed Gabriela Sabatini against Jana Nejedly, a qualifier from Canada, who is ranked No. 141 in the world.

The results

Seedings in parentheses:

SINGLES

First round

Joannette Kruger, South Africa, def. Shaun

Stafford, Gainesville, Fla., 6-3, 6-3; Kimberly Po, Rolling Hills, Calif., def. Maria Alejandra Vento, Venezuela, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5; Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., def. Amanda Coetzer (8), South Africa; Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Tatiana Ignatieva, Belarus, 6-0, 6-1; Lisa Raymond, Wayne, Pa., def. Sandra Cacic, Bradenton, Fla., 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5.

DOUBLES

First round

Patty Fendick-Meredith McGrath (2) def. Amy Frazier-Kimberly Po, 6-1, 6-3.

Today's schedule

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., vs. Marianne Werdel, San Diego, followed by Lori McNeil, Houston, vs. Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass.; Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., vs. Amy Frazier (7), Rochester Hills, Mich.; Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, vs. Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich.; Linda Harvey-Wild, Hawthorne Woods, Ill., vs. Julie Halard, France; Katarina Maleeva, Bulgaria, and Robin White, Del Mar, Calif., vs. Conchita Martinez, Spain, and Patricia Tarabini, Argentina; and Halard and Nathalie Tauziat, France, vs. Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, and Debbie Graham, Fountain Valley, Calif.

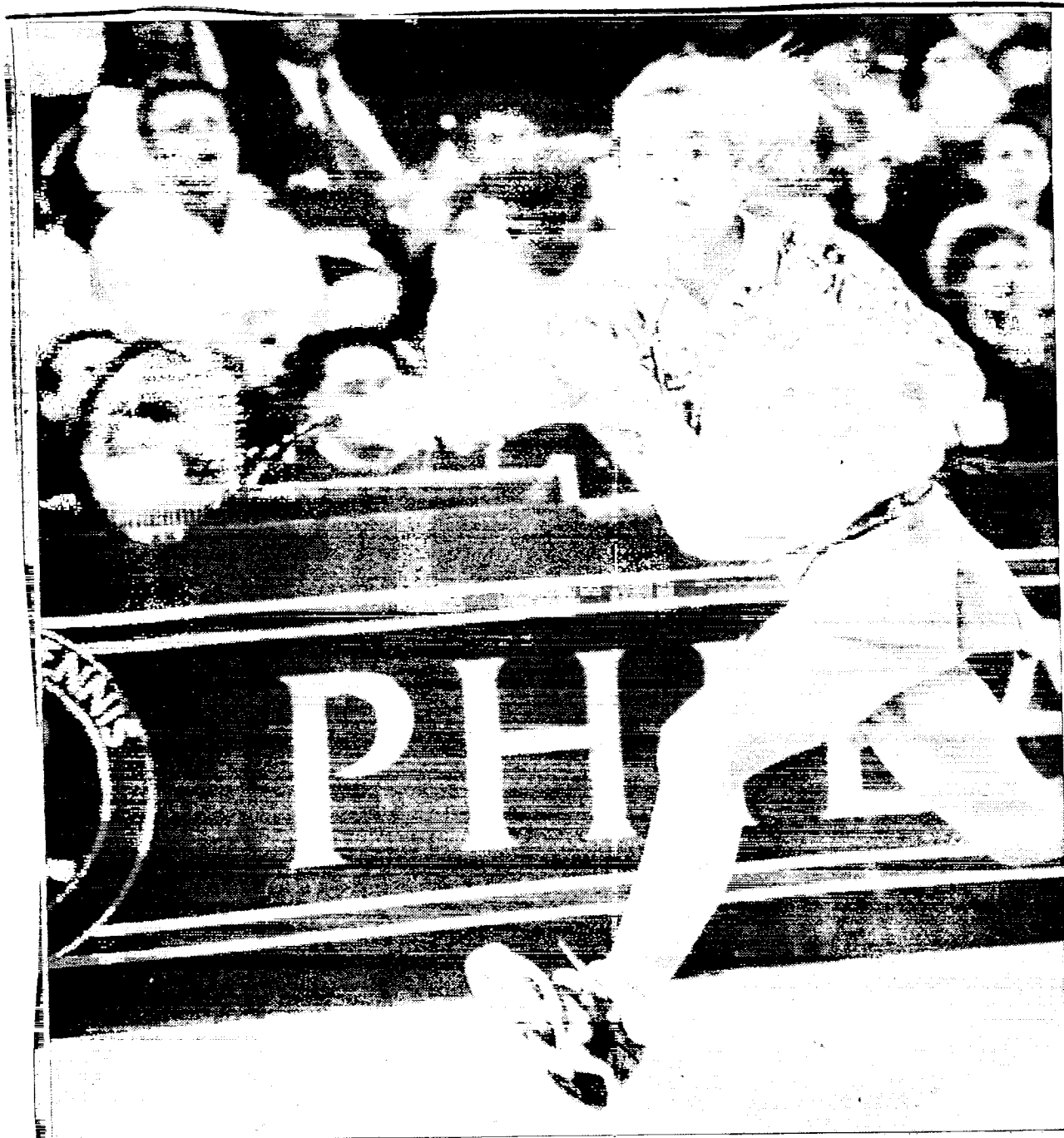
Not before 7 p.m.

Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, vs. Jana Nejedly, Canada, followed by Lindsey Davenport, Murrieta, Calif., and Lisa Raymond, Wayne, Pa. (4), vs. Vicky Paynter, Canada, and Karine Quentrec, France.

*Pucin(continued)

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2 of 3



The Philadelphia Inquirer / GERALD S. WILLIAMS
Lisa Raymond stretches to make a return against Sandra Čacic in an opening-round match. Raymond dropped the first set, then eked out a victory after squandering a 4-0 lead in the third and deciding set.

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3 of 3

Media spotlight is on Capriati as she gets ready for her return

She won't feed the frenzy created by tabloid TV or any other sources.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

No questions about anything but tennis, Jennifer Capriati says. No chatting about life, especially the recent past. Or the near future.

But Capriati is coming back to play tennis — tomorrow night at 7 against No. 6 seed Anke Huber in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament at the Pennsylvania Convention Center — and this is what she will have to face:

More than 250 media organizations from all over the world have requested credentials.

For a time yesterday, a television show called *American Journal*, which airs locally on Channel 10, was promoting tomorrow's edition, which will start at the same time Capriati hits her first tennis ball in public since September 1993 and which was supposed to include videotape of Capriati smoking and drinking at a Halloween party two weeks ago.

"Shot over a week's time in Palm Springs," an *American Journal* statement says, "the exclusive video shows Capriati in training on the tennis courts and relaxing by playing pool. It also shows her preparing for a Halloween party and smoking and drinking."

That was early last night. Later in the evening, a spokesperson for the show said that perhaps the promo hadn't been quite accurate.

"It will be a very upbeat piece of Jennifer at practice," Sheri Goldberg said. "Our lawyers say there will be no video of a Halloween party after all."

This will be her life for a while if Capriati returns to professional tennis full time — tabloid TV shows rushing to promo video that may not exist or may have been obtained illegally.

Capriati's agent, Barbara Perry, the Slims of Philadelphia tournament director, said she didn't know about the video and had no comment on it last night.

Capriati, 18, was at the Convention Center to practice yesterday, going through two sessions, one before lunch, one after. She hit with Jose Higuera, a thin, serious man who has coached many men's stars, including Jim Courier. Higuera is not Capriati's coach, he is quick to say. He is, right now, a practice partner and her only traveling companion for this tournament.

Capriati has said she will not answer questions this week about her time away from the tour — she was arrested on shoplifting charges once and drug possession charges once — or about what brought back her desire to play the game that made her a multimillionaire before she turned 14 and then made her so unhappy that she quit.

For the four weeks before this one, Higuera was in the California desert, hitting tennis balls with Capriati.

"She's hitting the ball hard," Higuera said. "She's having fun. That's all we want right now. We want Jennifer to be having fun. It doesn't matter if she wins or loses. It just matters that she goes out and enjoys herself."

"Enjoys herself," Higuera said that four or five times during a 15-

minute conversation. That is the wish most people have for her, too. Because for the last year or so that she played on the circuit, during her 1993 season, which ended with tears and a first-round loss to Leila Meskhi at the U.S. Open, she clearly didn't enjoy herself.

Joel Fish, director of the Center for Sports Psychology in Philadelphia, says Capriati's comeback will be successful if she is making it for the right reasons.

"How does she find success?" Fish said. "If she has a very narrow definition of success, being No. 1, she is setting herself up for the same disappointments. If she defines success in smaller ways, involving effort and improvement, Jennifer stands a better chance of moving in the right direction."

Higuera said yesterday that the Philadelphia tournament will be a test for Capriati. She wants to see not just what shape her game is in, but also how she will feel about playing in front of people, about dealing with the media and the attention and the microscopic scrutiny that everything she does will be under.

After Capriati's practice yesterday, she told a reporter that "I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there. After this tournament and next year, I don't know. I'm just going to take things day by day."

How she deals with real live competition, with the lights and cameras, with the videos of her at a teenagers' Halloween party, that is what this first small step is about.

Tennis

WTA money leaders

Through Sunday

1. A. Sanchez Vicario ..	\$2,146,665
2. Steffi Graf ..	1,461,980
3. Conchita Martinez ..	1,077,092
4. Jana Novotna ..	\$817,119
5. Natalia Zvereva ..	\$734,342
6. Gigi Fernandez ..	\$621,650
7. Martina Navratilova ..	\$619,582
8. Mary Pierce ..	\$548,114
9. Gabriela Sabatini ..	\$429,470
10. Lindsay Davenport ..	\$423,120
11. Meredith McGrath ..	\$353,617
12. Larisa Neiland ..	\$341,512
13. Lori McNeil ..	\$332,046
14. Magdalena Maleeva ..	\$324,347
15. Kimiko Date ..	\$323,904
16. Amanda Coetzer ..	\$317,466
17. Julie Halard ..	\$304,273
18. Iva Majoli ..	\$282,152
19. Anke Huber ..	\$275,731
20. Helena Sukova ..	\$274,230
21. Sabine Hack ..	\$272,296
22. Brenda Schultz ..	\$261,846
23. Amy Frazier ..	\$234,317
24. Patty Fendick ..	\$232,229
25. Zina Garrison Jackson ..	\$225,183
26. Nathalie Tauziat ..	\$214,573
27. Manon Bollegraf ..	\$212,271
28. Ann Grossman ..	\$208,092
29. G. Helgeson Nielsen ..	\$200,058
30. Pam Shriver ..	\$197,432
31. Lisa Raymond ..	\$193,503
32. Mary Joe Fernandez ..	\$193,411
33. Katerina Maleeva ..	\$193,338
34. Ines Gorrochategui ..	\$186,971
35. Leila Meskhi ..	\$181,086
36. Sabine Appelmans ..	\$172,329
37. Natalia Medvedeva ..	\$169,799
38. Kristie Boogert ..	\$167,770
39. Chanda Rubin ..	\$166,232
40. Shaun Stafford ..	\$165,971
41. Sandra Cecchini ..	\$155,655
42. Kristine Radford ..	\$155,650
43. Judith Wiesner ..	\$153,550
44. Irina Spirlea ..	\$151,217
45. Linda Harvey-Wild ..	\$142,337

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sports

Wednesday, November 9, 1994



Capriati steps, warily, onto the court again

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

She wore an army fatigue jacket and a bright pink baseball cap pulled down low over her eyes. This much seemed clear: Jennifer Capriati is not a sweet, giggly little girl anymore.

Capriati practiced yesterday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, a sort of made-for-TV performance. Cameras

were allowed, video and still. Pictures could be taken, but no words would be spoken. Capriati wouldn't talk. This was her first tentative step back into the spotlight, and Capriati was only going to hit a tennis ball. That's all.

For 45 minutes Capriati worked out, hitting with Jose Higuera on a synthetic court put down in a big hall under the gorgeous wooden and glass ceilings of the Reading Terminal. On the next court, Conchita Martinez and Gigi Fernandez were hitting. Capriati walked in and said "Hi" to Martinez and Fernandez. The three gathered in a circle and whispered for a moment.

Capriati smiled, then took off her fatigue jacket and took the rackets out of her bag.

A teenage boy sitting with two friends at an umbrella table next to the practice court's pointed to Ca-

priati and said, "That's Jennifer Capriati. She used to be ranked No. 6 in the world, you know." One of the other boys said, "Oh."

This is it. The start of the comeback after 15 months off. Once, Jennifer Capriati was the next great American tennis hope. The star. People paid her lots of money to use their skin lotion and their sports

drinks and their shoes and socks and shirts. Then she was 13, a kid who made it to semifinals of tournaments without thinking about it.

Now Capriati is 18. Most of the endorsements are gone. So is her tennis ranking, evaporated during 15 months of life off the tour, life that included many traumas and very

little tennis until the last two months. Now Capriati is taking a tentative step back to the tennis courts. She will play Anke Huber, the No. 6 seed, in a most anticipated match tonight.

Her 45-minute practice yesterday was a slow progression of Capriati hitting easily from the baseline to a hard test of volleying to finally Capriati hitting the blasting groundstrokes that so startled people when she was a 14-year-old French Open

See TENCIS on D5

1012

The Philadelphia Inquirer / ED HILLE

ack in spotlight, Jennifer Capriati watched the results of a shot she voyed with Jose Higuera at the Convention Center.

Capriati steps back onto the court

TENNIS from D1
semifinalist.

There was an occasional smile from Capriati during the workout. After nearly every shot, Capriati would walk back to the baseline and tug her baseball cap down lower over her forehead. She seemed to be trying to stay anonymous. And then they let the photographers in.

Fifteen or so lined up on the side of the court. Capriati walked to the net, whispered to Higuera and smiled. She tugged the cap down again and went back to hitting.

It is hard to tell from one 45-minute session what shape Capriati is in. She wore a baggy T-shirt over purple shorts. In December, when she was arrested in a Miami hotel room on drug-possession charges, pictures showed a heavy, tired-looking girl. Yesterday, Capriati looked sleeker.

Capriati has come to Philadelphia without her parents, and it is hard to remember if that ever happened before. Higuera, who has been hitting with Capriati for about a month, said he thought that was a positive thing, to see Jennifer out on her own.

Her father, Stefano, was always standing guard, it seemed, around the practice court, in the interview room. Capriati went through a chorus line of coaches who could never perform the locksteps Stefano wanted.

Yesterday morning, another 18-year-old, Chanda Rubin, upset No. 7 seed Amy Frazier, 6-1, 6-1. Rubin turned pro when she was 15 and started out playing a limited schedule of professional events.

She traveled mostly with a coach, seldom with her parents. "My tennis was not a family project," Rubin said.

Rubin graduated from high school, real high school with classmates and teachers and regular attendance required. Now she is an enthusiastic tennis player, happy to be making gradual improvement, looking forward to winning her first tournament, maybe soon, not frustrated or sullen, well-spoken, thoughtful.



Capriati will play her first match in 15 months this evening against Anke Huber.

Rubin welcomed Capriati back. All the players have. Lisa Raymond said it was good "to have Jen's smiling face back around the locker room," and Mary Pierce said Capriati "seems happy and healthy, and we're all happy to see her."

It can be a good life, the life of a young tennis pro. That's what Rubin believes. Rubin also said she didn't mind not having Capriati's obvious talent and sudden, dramatic results. The hype put pressure on Capriati, Rubin said, but then she also said something else.

"Jennifer hasn't had a bad life," Rubin said. "She's made enough money she can pretty much do whatever she wants. And she's only 18."

Listening to Rubin, you could almost think it's easy to have a good life as a little-girl tennis pro.

Then, watching Capriati scurry away, a protector in front of her, a protector in back of her, brushing

past some autograph-seekers, looking at her face with that baseball cap hiding her eyes, you know it's not so easy.

Notes. Frazier was the only seed to lose yesterday. Natalia Zvereva, seeded No. 5, had a routine, 6-4, 6-3 first-round win over Meredith McGrath, and No. 4 seed Gabriela Sabatini beat Jana Nejedly, 6-4, 6-1. In today's morning session, defending champion and No. 1 seed Conchita Martinez gets her first test, against Nathalie Tauziat.

The results

SINGLES

Seedings in parentheses

First round: Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., def. Marianne Werdel, San Diego, 6-2, 6-4. Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., def. Mercedes Paz, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2. Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., def. Amy Frazier (7), Rochester Hills, Mich., 6-1, 6-1. Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich., 6-4, 6-3. Julie Halard, France, def. Linda Harvey-Wild, Hawthorn Woods, Ill., 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, def. Jana Nejedly, Canada, 6-4, 6-1.

DOUBLES

Conchita Martinez-Patricia Tarabini def. Katarina Maleeva-Robin White, 6-4, 6-0; Amanda Coetzer-Debbie Graham def. Julie Halard-Nathalie Tauziat 6-4, 7-6 (7-4); Lindsay Davenport-Lisa Raymond (4) def. Vicky Paynter-Karine Quentrec, 6-4, 6-4.

Today's schedule

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Jill Hetherington-Shaun Stafford vs. Lori McNeil-Rennae Stubbs; Erika de Lone vs. Chanda Rubin; Brenda Schultz vs. Pam Shriver; Conchita Martinez (1) vs. Nathalie Tauziat; Tami Whitlinger-Jones vs. Lindsay Davenport (3); Katerina Maleeva vs. Zina Garrison-Jackson; Marianne Werdel-Tami Whitlinger-Jones vs. Gabriela Sabatini-Brenda Schultz.

Not before 7 p.m.

Anke Huber (6) vs. Jennifer Capriati; Gigi Fernandez-Natalia Zvereva (1) vs. Manon Bollegraf-Zina Garrison-Jackson.

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SPORTS FINAL

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Comeback win for the Sixers

Heroics in last 7 seconds lead to first victory under Lucas. Sports.



Comeback loss for Capriati

Philadelphia match ends her 15-month hiatus. Sports.

Thursday, November 10, 1994

50 cents

Cover
Front page

2042835745

Capriati loses, gamely, to Huber

Sports

Thursday, November 10, 1994

The German player was too much for her. But the Floridian showed that her talents are still there.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

The process of discovery was tentative at first. Like a baby discovering her fingers and toes, Jennifer Capriati slowly found the rhythm of tennis last night at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

It's the rhythm of running and swinging and catching the racket on the ball at just that perfect moment so the ball hits, *thwack*, and the strings twang as if they were in an echo chamber.

It's discovering the running forehand. Capriati found that when she had to sprint to the net to retrieve a drop shot. When Capriati hit a winner off this sprint, she looked at her racket as if to say, "Wow." When Capriati hit her first service-return winner, she patted her leg and looked surprised.

These were new things to Jennifer Capriati, shots that hadn't been hit in 15 months, not under lights and with four sets of stands surrounding the tennis court, not with breaths of anticipation for every shot, whistling and cheering at every winner she hit.



Jennifer Capriati leans into a backhand against Anke Huber. In her first competitive match in 15 months, Capriati lost by 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

There weren't enough winners for Capriati in her first-round match at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament, but this was not a surprise.

Anke Huber, a 19-year-old from Germany who is ranked No. 13 in the world and seeded No. 6 here, was a

comfortable and aggressive player even if the tournament director is Capriati's agent and every fan was rooting against her.

Huber beat Capriati, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, in 1 hour, 29 minutes.

Afterward, Capriati squinted into a bank of TV lights and said: "It's great

to be back. It's great to be playing out there again, and that's really what I want to talk about, my tennis."

This was Capriati's way of asking, pleading almost, not be to asked about the last 15 months, her break with the game that made her a millionaire at 13. To please not ask about

the arrests for shoplifting and drug possession, and the period of wearing black clothes and black nail polish.

This match ended a 15-month hiatus from competitive tennis for Capriati, and more than 250 people had

See **TENNIS** on D6

Capriati, beginning comeback, loses gamely to No. 6 seed Huber

TENNIS from D1
asked for media credentials, to see if Capriati was in shape, was happy, was healthy. Of course, all these questions couldn't be answered.

You could tell about the tennis, though. She had stretches of brilliance, especially in the second set, when Capriati won the first four games, won them fast and won by punching Huber in the gut with her ground strokes.

You could hear the air *swoosh* on the forehands and backhands that Capriati hit. Huber was grunting when Capriati's heavy balls hit her racket.

But Huber is a fit and match-tough player, and in the third set Huber was frisky and Capriati fatigued.

"I got tired," Capriati said. "I'm not used to running like that. I'm not in tip-top shape."

Capriati was introduced first, and the wait must have been nerve-racking. The match, scheduled to start at 7 p.m., didn't begin until 8:45 because a day-session doubles match took 2:15 and dragged past dinner and into nightcap time.

If Capriati was nervous about her reception — people had flown in from Paris and Milan and London to see her play — she shouldn't have been.

She is 18 years old and this crowd was eager to be warm, to forgive this kid her mistakes, the mistakes that followed a career of sudden, spectacular success as a 14-year-old and a sullen, spectacular first-round loss at the U.S. Open in 1993, the last match Capriati played.

Until last night.

Last night there were truly no expectations for Capriati for the first time in her career. There were hopes, surely. This crowd was fervently in favor of Capriati.

Each winner she hit was greeted with hoots and whistles and loud applause and every mis-hit by Capriati or winner by Huber drew groans and sighs.

Capriati's discovery process was slow to build. There was a quick service break in the first game for Capriati, but she gave that right back to Huber in the second game.

Huber won the 34-minute first set by breaking Capriati in the 10th game the way she had stayed in control most of the set, by running Capriati around cruelly almost, testing Capriati's endurance. The final point of the set was Capriati lunging at a forehand that she couldn't hit properly.

Never in the set did Capriati's face change expression. She was mad, though. She went into the second set hitting furiously and well. It was the old Capriati, fast and powerful and if it didn't last into the third set it must still have been a good sign for Capriati, a sign for her to keep up this comeback.

Capriati felt that way. She said she hopes to play in Australia in January when the new season starts.

When the match ended, there was more applause, a reverent standing ovation, and Capriati spent two minutes signing autographs. She smiled walking off the court as she had walking on.

The first time Capriati played pro

tennis, as a 13-year-old filled with giggles and optimism, she got to the finals of the tournament, a stunning thing, a thing that made expectation perhaps unfillable.

And now Capriati is back after 15 months. She has learned something, Capriati said.

"What have I learned? Well, umm, I really love this game. It doesn't matter to me whether I win or lose. I just want to come out and compete again. I've experienced a lot and got wiser about what makes me happy. I learned a lot about myself."

The results

SINGLES

Seeds in parentheses

First round: Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Pam Shriver, Baltimore, 6-4, 6-0. Lindsay Davenport (3), Murrieta, Calif., def. Tami Whitlinger-Jones, Neenah, Wis., 7-5, 6-3. Nathalie Tauziat, France, def. Conchita Martinez (1), Spain, 6-4, 6-4. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, def. Zina Garrison-Jackson, Houston, 6-4, 7-5. Anke Huber (6), Germany, def. Jennifer Capriati, Wesley Chapel, Fla., 6-4, 3-6, 3-0.

Second round: Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., def. Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., 6-2, 6-2.

DOUBLES

First round: Lea Ghirardi-Nino Louarsabishvili def. Jill Hetherington-Shaun Stafford 6-3, 6-2. Gabriela Sabatini-Brenda Schultz def. Marianne Werdel-Tami Whitlinger-Jones, 7-6, (7-3), 2-6, 7-6, (7-5). Gigi Fernandez-Natalia Zvereva (1) def. Manon Bollegraf-Zina Garrison-Jackson 6-2, 6-2.

Today's schedule

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Nathalie Tauziat vs. Kimberly Po; Patty Fendick vs. Mary Pierce (2); Brenda Schultz vs. Lindsay Davenport (3); Gabriela Sabatini (4) vs. Joannette Kruger; Meilen Tu vs. Katerina Maleeva; Patty Fendick-Meredith McGrath (2) vs. Gabriela Sabatini-Brenda Schultz; Natalia Zvereva (5) vs. Julie Halard.

Not before 7 p.m.

Lisa Raymond vs. Anke Huber (6); Jennifer Capriati-Mercedes Paz vs. Pam Shriver-Elizabeth Smylie (3).

2042835747

Tauziat eliminates top seed Martinez

Conchita Martinez was also the defending champion. She's now just a spectator.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

It has been a bad year, Nathalie Tauziat said, a year with too many first- and second-round losses to unranked players. It has been a year that's lasted too long. It has been a year Tauziat will be happy to see end. And then what does Tauziat do yesterday but go out and upset Conchita Martinez, the No. 1 seed and defending champion of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, 6-4, 6-4.

This was not how Martinez wanted to defend her championship, losing an uninspired match in the middle of the afternoon. Martinez, winner of Wimbledon this year and ranked No. 3 in the world, had spoken last week of being eager to play here and get her elegant game back on track.

Since beating Martina Navratilova in the three-set Wimbledon final that was the best women's tennis match this year, Martinez has won only one tournament. And since losing to Ginger Helgeson in the third round of the U.S. Open, Martinez hadn't gotten past the quarterfinals of her last three tournaments.

Now, her last four tournaments. "I haven't been playing well," Martinez said. When she was asked why not, the 22-year-old from Spain shrugged and said, "I wish I knew." Tauziat, who is 27 years old and ranked No. 39 in the world, didn't do anything very special yesterday except keep the ball in play.

She came to the net occasionally, though not as often as she might have wished. Tauziat said she was cautious in her approach, especially after having watched Martinez destroy Navratilova with an unbeatable backhand passing shot. But that was at Wimbledon, and Martinez



Associated Press / NANINE HARTZENBUSCH

Conchita Martinez appears to be wondering what was going wrong during her 6-4, 6-4 loss to Nathalie Tauziat at the Convention Center.

hasn't played so well since July.

Martinez said she hit the ball "quite good" yesterday, and she was clearly disappointed to have lost.

The only tournament left for her is the Virginia Slims Championships in New York last week, the season-end for the top 16 players.

"I need to get going," Martinez said. "I wanted to play my best here. I also need matches to get my confidence up."

This is the last tournament of the year for Tauziat. She said she had planned a long break, one that would include skipping the Australian

Open. But she was happy to postpone that break for a match or two.

"It's my last tournament of the year," Tauziat said. "I have nothing to lose here. All I have to do is play my best match. When I play my best game, I can beat anyone."

Notes. No. 3 Lindsay Davenport fared better than Martinez. Davenport, 18, beat Tami Whitlinger-Jones, 7-5, 6-3, in her first-round match.

The first player to advance to the third round was another 18-year-old, Chanda Rubin. Rubin had an impressive 6-2, 6-2 win over Erika de Lone.

2042835748

Sabatini advances

Brenda Schultz win highlights Phila. tourney. **Sports Extra.**

Lurie stops the Kotite talk

Eagles owner says cool it on talk of coach's future. **Sports Extra.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

New Jersey En b

Friday, November 11, 1994

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FRONT COVER

2042835749

Sports in Brief

Navratilova draws Sabatini in finale

COMPILED BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

Martina Navratilova will begin the last tournament of her professional tennis career next week in New York, and yesterday she drew **Gabriela Sabatini** as her first-round opponent.

Navratilova is seeded sixth in the \$3.5 million Virginia Slims Championship, which runs from Monday to Nov. 20.

Navratilova, 38, has won 167 singles titles — among them 18 Grand Slams — and earned more than \$20.5 million since turning pro in 1973.

She will retire after the tournament, the final stop on the women's tour this season.

Sabatini, who reached the quarterfinals in the Virginia Slims tournament in Philadelphia yesterday, said she was looking forward to playing Navratilova.

2042835750

Sports

Eagles

Friday, November 11, 1994

Cover



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The Philadelphia Inquirer / JEFF LODRIGUS

Gabriela Sabatini reaches for a shot in a doubles match. Sabatini won in both singles and doubles yesterday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. She beat Joannette Kruger, 6-4, 6-0, and she and Brenda Schultz beat Patty Fendick and Meredith McGrath, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Schultz bashes Davenport in Slims

Power was the order of the day. Brenda Schultz and Lindsay Davenport, both 6-foot-2, demonstrated.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Now, this is just a tennis tournament, not a tabloid TV event. Jennifer Capriati lost, and the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia has become about forehands and backhands, serves and volleys, upsets and new faces and even next week.

There was a match yesterday between two 6-foot-2 women. There is nobody taller on the tour than Bren-

da Schultz and Lindsay Davenport, so of course there were lots of booms and bangs and pows.

This wasn't ladylike tennis, especially not from Schultz, who served 11 aces, many at more than 100 m.p.h. She knocked Davenport, the No. 3 seed, right off the court and out of the tournament, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Davenport, 18, with sturdy legs and big arms, was squinting to see the machine at the end of the court that

registered the speed of Schultz's serves. Davenport said she was checking because her wrist was hurting every time she tried to receive those serves. Davenport demonstrated. She made her wrist snap back as if it were a matchstick.

The new face, fragile-looking Meilen Tu, the 16-year-old playing in her second professional tournament, won her second match just as she had her first one, roping in Katerina Maleeva with a forehand that cracked like a whip.

This skinny teenager has nuclear power, and it's not exactly clear how yet. But Maleeva, who is 25 years old

and ranked No. 36 in the world, lost and had little fight, by the way, when Tu was finishing her 6-4 win. On Tu's last couple of groundstrokes, Maleeva barely moved, perhaps tired of trying to fail.

Tu is a wide-eyed eager member of the tour, a kid who plane tickets home for her family because she can't think still be playing here. She might be much longer, but now Mary Pierce, the 2 seed, quarterfinal match.

Pierce pummeled Patty Fendick 3, 6-1, yesterday, second round. See TEN on D4

Friday, November 11, 1994

D4

Schultz outpowers Davenport in Slims; Pierce, Sabatini win



Brenda Schultz, who also won in singles yesterday, hits a backhand return during her doubles victory with Gabriela Sabatini.

The Philadelphia Inquirer / JERRY LODRIGUSS

TENNIS from D1

Impressive performance by Pierce.

Gabriela Sabatini, the No. 4 seed, also played well, and won, 6-4, 6-0, over Joannette Kruger. More interesting than Sabatini's victory yesterday, though, was the draw held earlier in the day for the Virginia Slims Championships next week in New York.

Sabatini gets to play Martina Navratilova in the first round, Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden. Navratilova is going to be honored on that night; a banner will be raised in her honor, and if Navratilova loses, it will be her last match as a tennis professional.

Sabatini said she was looking forward to this chance and, yes, Sabatini said, she will be sad to knock Navratilova into retirement, but, yes, Sabatini said, she would very much like to win.

It was the contest between the two six-footers that was the day's most intriguing match. Schultz has, occasionally, the best and most dangerous serve on the tour. It topped 110 m.p.h. several times, and in the past year Schultz has developed a high-kicking second serve that confused Davenport.

In the first set, Davenport was controlling the points because Schultz wasn't getting in a lot of first serves. That played to Davenport's strengths, her flat, well-disguised forehands that kept knocking down Schultz's racket. But in the second set, it was watch out Lindsay. Schultz got her serve in the groove.

"She was hurting me with the serve," Davenport said, and she meant that literally, painfully. "My wrist was bent all the way back."

Davenport began a desperate, two-set struggle to return a serve and just could never get enough balls back to put Schultz in trouble. "It's hard to construct a point when you don't know what she's gonna do," Davenport said.

Schultz, 24, has been slow to see her game mature. Davenport said that if "Brenda used all her weapons with a serve like that, she'd be dan-

gerous."

Schultz is dangerous sometimes, and more and more those sometimes are more often. Schultz is ranked No. 17 in the world now and qualified for next week's season-ending Slims Championships, the tournament for 16 top players.

"I'm playing real well at the moment," Schultz said. Everything's just great."

Notes. Steffi Graf, who had been entered in the tournament and pulled out last Friday because of her chronic back problem, came to Philadelphia yesterday and practiced at the Convention Center. Graf has another practice scheduled this morning, with Navratilova. Graf is hoping to get into shape to play next week in New York. Graf needs to practice her service return, for she drew Schultz in her first-round match. Capriati pulled out of her doubles match last night. The official reason was a sore right arm suffered in her singles match Wednesday against Anke Huber.

The results

Seedings in parentheses.

SINGLES

Second round: Kimberly Po, Rolling Hills, Calif., def. Nathalie Tauziat, France, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-1. Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, def. Joannette Kruger, South Africa, 6-4, 6-0. Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., def. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-3. Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. Julie Halard, France, 6-1, 6-4. Anke Huber (6), Germany, vs. Lisa Raymond, Wayne.

DOUBLES

Second round: Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, and Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., and Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich. (2), 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Today's schedule

Beginning at 11 a.m.

Natalia Zvereva (5) vs. Brenda Schultz; Conchita Martinez-Patricia Tarabini vs. Erika de Lone; Audra Keller or Pam Shriver-Elizabeth Smylie (3); Gigi Fernandez-Natalia Zvereva (1) vs. Amanda Coetzer-Debbie Graham; Kimberly Po vs. Lisa Raymond or Anke Huber (6); Mary Pierce (2) vs. Meilen Tu.

Beginning at 7 p.m.

Gabriela Sabatini (4) vs. Chanda Rubin; Lindsay Davenport-Lisa Raymond (4) vs. Lea Ghirard; Nino Louarsabishvili.

2042835752

Bradley sharp in Sixers loss

His 17 points, 12 rebounds, 8 blocks not enough to beat Mavs. **Sports.**

Sabatini wins in rout

Pierce, Huber, Zvereva also reach Slims semis. **Sports.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Saturday, November 12, 1994

FRONT
PAGE

2042835753

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sports

Saturday, November 12, 1994

Sports
Cover

Sabatini, Huber lead the way into semifinals

Mary Pierce and Natalia Zvereva also advanced in yesterday's quarterfinals at the Convention Center.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

There is so much to cheer about when Gabriela Sabatini plays tennis, and then there is so much to close your eyes and moan about.

It is so familiar, the way Sabatini throws back her shoulders, puffs out a small grunt of effort, hits all those topspins, both the backhands and forehands. Her dark hair is still in a thick ponytail. There is still a sweatband around her forehead. She'll hit one of those topspin backhands from deep behind the baseline and send it spinning, crazily, past the player at the net, a confounding passing shot that leaves you breathless.

Then Sabatini will serve up a couple of double faults and maybe bury an easy volley deep into the net and people shake their heads.

That's how it was last night at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. Sabatini played brilliant points and served 13 double faults, but the combination was weighted in favor of

the brilliant points.

Sabatini, the No. 4 seed, frustrated 18-year-old Chanda Rubin into mutterings and stutterings and a 6-3, 6-0 loss in the evening quarterfinal at the Convention Center.

In the other quarterfinals, No. 2 seed Mary Pierce ended the run of 16-year-old Meilen Tu, 6-2, 6-4; No. 5 seed Natalia Zvereva ducked when Brenda Schultz served aces and beat Schultz, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4); and No. 6 seed Anke Huber overpowered Kimberly Po, 6-3, 6-2.

This sets up semifinals between Huber and Sabatini this afternoon at 2 and Pierce and Zvereva at 7 p.m.

It has been nearly 30 months since Sabatini has won a tennis tournament, since the Italian Open in May of 1992. This is beyond figuring.

Sabatini is still ranked No. 9 in the world and you would think she could win a tournament somehow, even accidentally.

Sabatini, 24, is a perpetual optimist, See **TENNIS** on C2



The Philadelphia Inquirer / JOHN COSTELLO

Chanda Rubin hitting a return in her losing quarterfinal effort against Gabriela Sabatini yesterday at the Convention Center.

2042835754

Sabatini leads advance to semis

TENNIS from C1
always smiling, and she says this tournament drought doesn't bother her. She has been in six semifinals this year and only two finals.

Winning a tournament, Sabatini said, "will be a relief. Most of all I will feel more secure and more confident with my game."

The game does seem more aggressive. Her serves are harder and her groundstrokes more consistent than in the past. And the attitude? "With the way I'm playing," Sabatini said, "I feel everything is good. I feel I can win every point."

It had been a week of being a villain for Huber until yesterday. Huber had to play comeback kid Jennifer Capriati in the first round and the Convention Center fans were desperately vocal in rooting for Capriati.

In the second round, Huber drew home-town favorite Lisa Raymond, and by the time the 2-hour, 15-minute, three-set match ended at 12:23 Friday morning, the only people left probably came from Raymond's neighborhood.

Against Po, Huber got mostly silence. There wasn't much cheering because Huber was so firmly in command with her groundstrokes propelled by a firm right arm and high-pitched grunt.

Huber has played well since the U.S. Open, and she beat Martina Navratilova and Pierce on her way to the title at Filderstadt in Germany last month.

Pierce, who is suffering from a bad cold and who was coughing hard after long points, said every player remembers the first time she plays a highly-ranked player. She said it makes you very nervous, maybe a little overwhelmed and possibly too impressed with the surroundings and the opponent.

That's what seemed to happen to Tu yesterday.

She got behind quickly, 3-0 in the first set, and won only three points in those three games. Tu hits the ball exceptionally hard for a 5-foot-3 16-year-old. But Pierce hits the ball exceptionally hard for anybody, and Tu was just too tiny to cover the court well enough.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Pierce won the first three games in each set, then lost concentration a little and dropped a couple of games.

"It's hard to stay focused when you're not feeling well," Pierce said.

She was also a little cranky on the court, always asking which ballboys and ballgirls had which balls and stopping to yank the rubber band on her braid tighter.

But when Pierce hit the final shot, a brutal backhand return winner that would have toppled little Tu if it had hit her, Pierce pumped her fist. She was happy to have made it through an afternoon of coughs and sniffles and a 16-year-old's debut against the best.

Zvereva, 23, is better known for her doubles play, but when she is in good tennis form and in a good frame of mind, her singles game is enthralling. She hits many different shots at many different speeds, and yesterday Schultz couldn't reach very many.

Schultz never was able to break Zvereva and despite 11 aces of her own Schultz, also 23, seldom remained in firm control of her own serve.

The results

Seedings in parentheses.

SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus def. Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4). Anke Huber (6), Germany def. Kimberly Po, Incline Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-2. Mary Pierce (2), France def. Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., 6-2, 6-4. Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina def. Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., 6-3, 6-0.

DOUBLES

Quarterfinals: Conchita Martinez, Spain, and Patricia Tarabini, Argentina def. Pam Shriver, Baltimore, and Elizabeth Smylie, Australia (3), 6-4, 6-4. Gigi Fernandez, Puerto Rico, and Natalia Zvereva, Belarus (1) def. Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, and Debbie Graham, Fountain Valley, Calif., 6-4, 6-0. Lindsay Davenport, Murietta, Calif., and Lisa Raymond, Wayne (4) def. Lea Ghirardi, France, and Nino Louarsabishvili, Georgia, 6-2, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4.

Today's schedule

Beginning at 2 p.m.

Gabriela Sabatini (4) vs. Anke Huber (6); Conchita Martinez-Patricia Tarabini vs. Gabriela Sabatini-Brenda Schultz.

Beginning at 7 p.m.

Mary Pierce (2) vs. Natalia Zvereva (5); Gigi Fernandez-Natalia Zvereva (1) vs. Lindsay Davenport-Lisa Raymond (4) or Lea Ghirardi-Nino Louarsabishvili.

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Saturday, November 12, 1994

Calendar

Home game

SAT. NOV. 12	SUN. NOV. 13	MON. NOV. 14	TUES. NOV. 15	WED. NOV. 16	THURS. NOV. 17	FRI. NOV. 18
EAGLES	BROWN 1:00 Ch. 3					
MAGIC 7:30 PRISM			PISTONS 7:30 SC	HEAT 7:30 PRISM		CLIPPERS 7:30 PRISM

SAT. NOV. 12	SUN. NOV. 13	MON. NOV. 14	TUES. NOV. 15	WED. NOV. 16	THURS. NOV. 17	FRI. NOV. 18
EAGLES	BROWN 1:00 Ch. 3					
MAGIC 7:30 PRISM			PISTONS 7:30 SC	HEAT 7:30 PRISM		CLIPPERS 7:30 PRISM

TV/Radio

College Football	10 a.m.	DePauw at Wabash	ESPN2
	Noon	Notre Dame vs. Florida St. at Orlando	Ch. 6
	Noon	Syracuse at Boston College	SC
	12:30 p.m.	Ohio State at Indiana	ESPN
	1 p.m.	West Virginia at Temple	WRTI-FM 90.1; WGMP-AM 1210
	1 p.m.	Rutgers at Virginia Tech	WOR-AM 710
	1 p.m.	Hofstra at Delaware	WDEL-AM 1150
	1 p.m.	Villanova at New Hampshire	WFWA-AM 1590; delayed tape on WGMP-AM 1210 at 4 p.m.
	1 p.m.	Muhlenberg at Moravian	Ch. 39
	3:30 p.m.	Penn State at Illinois	Ch. 6; WIP-AM 610
	3:30 p.m.	Western Michigan at Toledo	SC
	6:30 p.m.	Oregon at Stanford	SC
	7 p.m.	Georgia at Auburn	ESPN
	10 p.m.	UCLA at Arizona State	ESPN
	11:30 p.m.	West Virginia at Temple (replay)	SC
	3 a.m. Sunday	The Citadel at Virginia Military Institute (replay)	SC
	3:30 a.m. Sunday	Georgia at Auburn (replay)	ESPN
Pro Football	6 p.m.	CFL Western Semifinal Playoff Game	ESPN2
Golf	4 p.m.	World Cup of Golf, third round	Ch. 3
	5 p.m.	Senior Tour Championship, third round	ESPN
TV Sports Show	4:30 p.m.	Eye on Sports: Skiing, Return of the Champions	Ch. 10
NBA	7:30 p.m.	Magic at Sixers	Prism; WIP-AM 610
Tennis	2 p.m.	Virginia Slims of Philadelphia	Prism
	9:30 p.m.	European Community Championship, semifinals	SC
Auto Racing	3:30 p.m.	NASCAR Advance Auto Parts 500	TNN
Figure Skating	2 p.m.	World Professional Championships	Ch. 3
	9 p.m.	Ice Wars: USA vs. the World	Ch. 10
Local Events			
Horse Racing	12:30 p.m.	Philadelphia Park	Street Road, Bensalem
Pro Tennis	2 p.m. and 7 p.m.	Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Tournament, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch Sts.	
NBA	7:30 p.m.	Sixers vs. Magic	Spectrum
College Football	1 p.m.	Temple vs. West Virginia	Veterans Stadium
	1 p.m.	Delaware vs. Hofstra	Delaware Stadium, Newark

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sunday Sports

Sunday, November 13, 1994

Section C

Baseball	C7
Golf	C16
Horse Racing	C22
NBA	C2
NHL	C10
Outdoors	C23
Sports in Brief	C3

Inside Sports

*A victory for
Baltimore in CFL
playoffs. C24.*

Next week: world peace

■ Curt Schilling had a lot of time on his hands lately, so he came up with a plan that would not only end the strike. It would save baseball. **On Baseball, C7.**

For Sabatini, a tough loss

■ This one hurt, you could tell. Gabriela Sabatini hoped to end her 43-tournament losing streak in Philadelphia, but Anke Huber was too much for her in last night's semifinals. **C22.**



Over valley, through woods

■ Orienteering: Running around in the forest looking for points on a map. In Scandinavia, it's a passion. Here, it's still a bit on the fringes. **The Outdoors, C23.**

2042835757

Huber eliminates Sabatini; Pierce also advances to final

Gabriela Sabatini had lost 43 straight tournaments. She didn't expect this to be No. 44.

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

This one hurt, you could tell. Gabriela Sabatini hung her head and closed her eyes and covered her face with a towel. It's been 43 straight tournaments now that Sabatini has played in — and lost in — but this week, it was going to be different. That's how Sabatini talked all week here at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. She was hitting the ball well, Sabatini said, serving better than ever and most of all, full of confidence on every point. "I feel I can win every ball," she said.

But she couldn't. Not against Anke Huber, a sturdy 19-year-old who is unwilling to make a mistake and all too willing to run after every off-speed, slicing, spinning ball Sabatini hit. In the end, after 2 hours and 28 minutes of grunting, sweating tennis, Huber, the No. 6 seed, had sent Sabatini, the No. 4 seed, home a loser once again.

The score was 6-7 (11-13), 6-1, 6-4 and advanced Huber into today's 1 p.m. final at the Convention Center against No. 2 seed Mary Pierce, who beat No. 5 seed Natalia Zvereva, 6-3, 6-3, last night.

Sabatini seemed puzzled, as well as disappointed. All week, Sabatini's splendid game of making the ball bob and weave, as if pulled by a string from above, seemed magical. And Sabatini was full of pep and always smiling.

She said on Friday that she felt good about her chances of winning here and ending that horrible 30-month winless streak. Then, Sabatini bolted right into a 3-0 lead in the first set.

It was almost as if Huber were only a fleeting, ghostly presence. The crowd was firmly behind Sabatini. Every time Sabatini hit a winner, there was a roar and stomping feet and whistles. Every time Sabatini did anything, really — catch a ball on the fly, kick a ball over the net — it was met by whoops and hollers. If, on the other hand, Huber whacked a winner, walloped an ace, there was silence.

But it turns out Sabatini's brief burst of superiority in the first set was due more to Huber's nerves than Sabatini's dominance. "I didn't play very well at first," Huber said. "I was a little bit nervous, maybe."

The nerves disappeared quickly, and so did Sabatini's lead. Huber won four straight games. The German began hitting the ball earlier and moving Sabati-



The Philadelphia Inquirer / RON TARVER

Anke Huber, en route to victory over Gabriela Sabatini, returning a shot in their semifinal match yesterday at the Convention Center.

ni everywhere, side to side, front to back and only because Huber missed three or four nerve-wrackingly easy overheads and volleys did the first set get into a tie-breaker.

It was during the tiebreak, when Sabatini didn't score on her first five set points, when Huber was sending back Sabatini's devilishly low backhand slice even lower, that you could see Sabatini becoming unnerved. Even when Sabatini won the 1-hour, 14-minute first set with a backhand winner on the 24th point of the tie-breaker, there was no sense that she was in command.

"I was always defending myself," Sabatini said. "I couldn't play deep enough and I didn't feel I was in control of the match at any moment."

In just 26 minutes, the crowd figured out Sabatini wasn't in control. Huber won the second set in almost the same time as it took to play the first-set tiebreak. Strangely, it was Sabatini who seemed listless. Several times in the second set, Sabatini didn't chase down balls she might have returned. Meanwhile, Huber was rushing everywhere, even off the court, and almost into the stands to retrieve Sabatini's topspins.

It should have been Sabatini who had the momentum; even Sabatini said so. "It was hard for me at the beginning of the second set to get back into the match," Sabatini said. "But nothing seemed to be bothering her."

Sabatini — 24 years old now and winner of 25 titles, but none since the Italian Open in May of 1992 — was clearly disappointed.

"I was feeling good," Sabatini said. "I thought I had a pretty good chance to

win a tournament and I didn't. It's disappointing."

Last night, Pierce needed patience, mostly. Zvereva spent much of the first set trying to draw Pierce to the net. Zvereva kept hitting drop shots and Pierce did keep running to the net. Problem was, Zvereva's drop shots kept not going over the net.

Pierce glared once at Zvereva after one of Pierce's futile runs forward, but when Zvereva finally got one of those drop shots to drop over, Pierce crashed a forehand winner.

For Pierce, this is the fifth time in a tournament final this year. So far she is 0-4. Huber has been in two tournament finals. She has won them both and the last, at a tournament in Germany last month, was a 6-4, 6-2 win over Pierce.

But Pierce isn't bothered. She was proud of herself last night for being patient against Zvereva, especially mentally patient.

About this fifth final Pierce said, "maybe the fifth will be the right one."

The results

Seedings in parentheses.

SINGLES

Semifinals: Anke Huber (6), Germany, def. Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, 6-7 (11-13), 6-1, 6-4. Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, 6-3, 6-3.

DOUBLES

Semifinals: Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, and Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Conchita Martinez, Spain, and Patricia Tarabini, Argentina, 7-6 (7-2), 3-6, 6-1.

Today's schedule

Beginning at 1 p.m.

Anke Huber (6) vs. Mary Pierce (2); Gabriela Sabatini and Brenda Schultz vs. Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva (1) or Lindsay Davenport and Lisa Raymond (4).

Saturday, November 12, 1994

Calendar

Home game

SAT. NOV. 12	SUN. NOV. 13	MON. NOV. 14	TUES. NOV. 15	WED. NOV. 16	THURS. NOV. 17	FRI. NOV. 18
MAGIC 7:30 PRISM			PISTONS 7:30 SC	HEAT 7:30 PRISM		CLIPPERS 7:30 PRISM

TV/Radio

College Football	10 a.m.	DePauw at Wabash	ESPN2
	Noon	Notre Dame vs. Florida St. at Orlando	Ch. 6
	Noon	Syracuse at Boston College	SC
	12:30 p.m.	Ohio State at Indiana	ESPN
	1 p.m.	West Virginia at Temple	WRTI-FM 90.1; WGMP-AM 1210
	1 p.m.	Rutgers at Virginia Tech	WOR-AM 710
	1 p.m.	Hofstra at Delaware	WDEL-AM 1150
	1 p.m.	Villanova at New Hampshire	WPWA-AM 1590; delayed tape on WGMP-AM 1210 at 4 p.m.
	1 p.m.	Muhlenberg at Moravian	Ch. 39
	3:30 p.m.	Penn State at Illinois	Ch. 6; WIP-AM 610
	3:30 p.m.	Western Michigan at Toledo	SC
	6:30 p.m.	Oregon at Stanford	SC
	7 p.m.	Georgia at Auburn	ESPN
	10 p.m.	UCLA at Arizona State	ESPN
	11:30 p.m.	West Virginia at Temple (replay)	SC
	3 a.m. Sunday	The Citadel at Virginia Military Institute (replay)	SC
	3:30 a.m. Sunday	Georgia at Auburn (replay)	ESPN
Pro Football	6 p.m.	CFL Western Semifinal Playoff Game	ESPN2
Golf	4 p.m.	World Cup of Golf, third round	Ch. 3
	5 p.m.	Senior Tour Championship, third round	ESPN
TV Sports Show	4:30 p.m.	Eye on Sports: Skiing, Return of the Champions	Ch. 10
NBA	7:30 p.m.	Magic at Sixers	Prism; WIP-AM 610
Tennis	2 p.m.	Virginia Slims of Philadelphia	Prism
	9:30 p.m.	European Community Championship, semifinals	SC
Auto Racing	3:30 p.m.	NASCAR Advance Auto Parts 500	TNN
Figure Skating	2 p.m.	World Professional Championships	Ch. 3
	9 p.m.	Ice Wars: USA vs. the World	Ch. 10
Local Events			
Horse Racing	12:30 p.m.	Philadelphia Park	Street Road, Bensalem
Pro Tennis	2 p.m. and 7 p.m.	Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Tournament	Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch Sts.
NBA	7:30 p.m.	Sixers vs. Magic	Spectrum
College Football	1 p.m.	Temple vs. West Virginia	Veterans Stadium
	1 p.m.	Delaware vs. Hofstra	Delaware Stadium, Newark
	1 p.m.	Penn vs. Harvard	Franklin Field

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Inside
Cover of
FRONT PAGE

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
NOV 14, 1994

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Inside Today's Inquirer



Virginia Slims doubles champions Natalia Zvereva (left) and Gigi Fernandez celebrate their win over Gabriela Sabatini and Brenda Schultz at the Convention Center.

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Sports Extra

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Eagles vs. Browns

Monday, November 14, 1994

Huber's good times are now

Sports
Cover

She has won two tournaments in a month. They include the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

MSN

By Diane Pucin
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

The ball was always deep into the corners, dusting the edges of the lines. And Anke Huber always grunted, a deep sound from her toes at the beginning that turned into a mousy squeak by the time her racket swung through the ball.

For 2 hours, 8 minutes, Huber was the metronome. Rhythmic grunt. The twang of her racket hitting the ball, pushing Mary Pierce to the edge of the court and the edge of rage.

Pierce fell behind by 6-0, 2-0 and swore and threw her rackets. Then there was the comeback, and the 4-0 deficit in the third set. And always there was Huber at the baseline, grunting, twanging, dusting the lines.

Finally, after the second-seeded Pierce had tied the match at 5-5 in the third set with a 97-mile-an-hour serve in your face, Anke — the sixth-seeded Huber tightened her bandanna and won the last two games and the championship match of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, yesterday.

Huber has been a lonely figure at the Convention Center this week. She is 19 and without a coach, a pale blonde who would walk through the crowds shopping at the clothing booths unnoticed.

Huber won four three-set matches. She knocked out Jennifer Capriati, thus squashing the chance of a fairy-tale return; she knocked out hometown girl Lisa Raymond; she knocked out heartthrob Gabriela Sabatini, in desperate search of a title since 1992; and then she stomped on what had threatened to become a pulsing comeback by Pierce, the player with the cough and cold and killer backhand.

So it is time to congratulate Huber. She has won two tournaments in a

See TENNIS on C9



The Philadelphia Inquirer / J. KYLE KEENER

It was that kind of day for Mary Pierce, who showed her frustration at an official's call. She lost in three sets.

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For Germany's Huber, good times are now

TENNIS from C1

month now, beating Pierce in the finals both times. Since the U.S. Open, there has been no better player than Huber. She has played in five straight tournaments and says she is tired. Yet Huber chased down every shot and was hitting winners when Pierce had turned her back, sure the point had been won.

After the U.S. Open, Huber split with her coach, Boris Breskvar. It was a little traumatic. Breskvar had coached Huber since she was 9, and she had said he was like a father to her. But Huber felt she had outgrown Breskvar's rein, as she would have outgrown a father's.

Yesterday, after she had collected a check for \$150,000, Huber said she was in the market for a coach and smiled and asked if there were any volunteers.

There should be. The coaching work seems to have been well done already.

In the 21-minute first set against Pierce, Huber was merely perfect. She won the first four games in 12 minutes, and Pierce could barely get the racket on balls. Huber was hitting the ball low, flat and devilishly deep. Pierce didn't even reach game point until the sixth game, and when Huber held serve at love in the second game of the second set, Pierce slammed her racket to the ground and bellowed like an angry elephant, swinging her head and slapping her thigh.

"She just didn't know what to do," Huber said of Pierce in those first eight games.

Then Pierce came to the net. In the next game she rushed the net on the first two points. She won the first when Huber's lob attempt was long, and she won the second with a volley that was punctuated by a large smile and wild applause.

Pierce ended up winning the game, her first, 29 minutes into the match. This might have seemed like a small thing, but that little change of pace, that volley, that move to the net, was enough to fiddle the pace of the match a bit.

Huber started becoming human, missing a line here and there, double-faulting once in a while. Pierce evened the set at 4-4 when Huber double-faulted the game point, and she won the tie-break with the help of another Huber double-fault that gave Pierce a 6-4 lead.

"Maybe it was a little nerves," Huber said of the double-faults. But more likely it was her fear of Pierce's service returns. Pierce, who is 5-foot-11 and who has a long reach, was knocking back Huber's second serves for convincing winners.

"I had to serve the second serve very hard and with a lot of risk," Huber said, "or it was her point."

If the match had seemed a massacre in the first set, it seemed equally in Huber's victory column after four games of the third set.

By the time Huber had taken a 4-0 lead in the deciding set, Pierce had thrown around two rackets, buried her head in a towel, and shouted something that isn't said in polite company.

The burst of temper helped Pierce. She broke Huber at love in the fifth game, and from there won three of the next four games to tie the match at 5-5 with that big ace, only her second of the match.

"At 5-all I was really a little bit down," Huber said. "After 5-2 I made some stupid mistakes, and all the time she never really gave up. But I was also tired and thought I could only play two more games."

So Huber went for everything in those last three games. She reached longer, hit a little harder, held serve for the 6-5 lead by making Pierce scramble and hit a forehand into the net, then won the last two points of the match with crackling forehand winners.

The results

Seatings in parentheses.

SINGLES

Final: Anke Huber (6), Germany, def. Mary Pierce (2), France, 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5.

DOUBLES

Final: Gigi Fernandez, Aspen, Colo., and Natalia Zvereva (1), Belarus, def. Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, and Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Daily News

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ATE SPORTS

NEWS

PAGE 100

Virginia Slims begins at Center

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

Hosting a tennis tournament, or any other sports event, wasn't what the Pennsylvania Convention Center people had in mind when the sprawling facility opened last year.

When Barbara Perry, the director of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament, mentioned the idea to Bob Butera, the Convention Center's executive director, the surprised Butera was speechless. Since Butera is a former politician — serving in the state General Assembly — you can imagine how overwhelmed he was to be struck silent.

For its first three years, the Slims of Philadelphia was played at the Civic Center. The stately old building in West Philadelphia was fine, but Perry was aware that the city might sell the Civic Center soon.

"We were told we'd have only one more year there," Perry said last night. "We decided we should move sooner than later."

After touring the \$523 million Convention Center, at 12th and Arch Streets, before last year's tournament, Perry quickly realized it would be an ideal location for a tournament. Its 440,000 square feet of exhibition space provides plenty of room for a center court, two practice courts, a court-side club dining area and places for tennis-related displays.

The tournament begins today and runs through Sunday.

The Center's "A" Hall will seat 5,000 for tennis (the seats are chairs, not bleachers). The practice courts are in the Grand Hall of the Reading Terminal Train Shed. The walls of the spacious hall are trimmed in attractive white-veined gray marble from Mexico.

Butera thought the only major problem would be the lack of locker rooms. But then he discovered there were locker rooms. Hey, it's a huge building: locker rooms could be there and not everyone would know about them.

"We're very happy with [the building]," Perry said. "We're getting great feedback from the players."

The day before top-ranked Steffi Graf withdrew last Friday, the tournament received a boost when Jennifer Capriati entered.

Capriati, a wild-card entry who hasn't played in a tournament

SLIMS AT A GLANCE

Event: Virginia Slims of Philadelphia

Where: Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch streets.

When: Today through Sunday. Monday through Thursday matches begin at 9 a.m.; night sessions begin at 7. Friday's quarterfinals start at 11 a.m. Semifinals on Saturday are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday's final is at 1 p.m.

TV: Saturday's 2 p.m. semifinal will be live on PRISM. Channel 3 will carry the final on tape-delay at 4:30 p.m., following the Eagles-Browns game.

Tickets: \$12 to \$35.

Purse: \$750,000 (winner receives \$150,000).

Top seeds: Conchita Martinez, Mary Pierce, Lindsay Davenport, Gabriela Sabatini, Natalie Zvereva, Anke Huber, Amanda Coetzer.

Information: 215-654-7700.

— **Bill Fleischman**

since the 1993 U.S. Open, is launching a comeback following her arrest for marijuana possession last May in Florida.

Capriati will face sixth-seeded Anke Huber either tomorrow or Wednesday night. Capriati also is playing doubles with partner Mercedes Paz.

Graf withdrew when her ailing back hadn't responded to treatment. The three-time U.S. Open champion is undergoing therapy in New York and still hopes to play in the Slims Championships next week.

Graf won the Slims of Philadelphia two years ago, then lost to Conchita Martinez in last year's final.

Graf's withdrawal leaves Martinez, the reigning Wimbledon titlist, as the top seed.

RAYMOND RECOVERED

Wayne's Lisa Raymond had to skip a tournament in Quebec City last week after suffering a strained Achilles' tendon playing in Zurich, Switzerland, last month.

"I had to do nothing for 15 days," Raymond said yesterday, still squirming at the forced idleness. The two-time NCAA titlist at the University of Florida is close to 100 percent.

Raymond, ranked No. 46, will meet 51st-ranked Sandra Cacic in tonight's second match.

Second-seeded Mary Pierce plays qualifier Tatiana Ignatieva in tonight's first match at 7 o'clock.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1994

50¢ PM EDITION

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

THE PEOPLE PAPER

PM

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by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

For Mary Pierce, her opening-round match in the Virginia Slams of Philadelphia tournament went as expected. The second-seeded Pierce overwhelmed qualifier Titiana Ignatieva, 6-0, 6-1, in just 46 minutes.

For Lisa Raymond, however, her first-round match last night was a wearying, 2-hour, 11-minute struggle. But Raymond finally prevailed over another battler, Sandra Cacic, 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5, in the second evening match in the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

After sidestepping match point in the second-set tiebreaker and winning the last three points, Raymond seized a 4-0 lead in the final set. The two-time NCAA titlist from Wayne appeared on the verge of crushing the 20-year-old Floridian.

Instead, Cacic won five consecutive games. But, serving for the match, Cacic was broken at double break point. Raymond then closed out the set, to the delight of what remained of the 1,531 fans.

Afterward, between hacking coughs, Raymond said her

vival against the 52nd-ranked Cacic will help her in future matches. "It's a good feeling to know that later in a tournament, if I'm in that position in a match, I'm capable of coming back," said Raymond, ranked No. 44.

Of the 4-0 lead in the third set that vanished, Raymond said: "I got real conservative. At 4-2, I started getting worried. I made it tough on myself."

Raymond, 21, said she enjoys playing in her hometown, but acknowledged feeling pressure to please her fans.

"I was nervous and put a lot of pressure on myself going into the match, because it was here in Philly," she said. "I didn't want to lose to her, even though she was playing well."

"At the beginning, I was a little nervous, and Sandra came out playing really well. She kept me pinned at the baseline and I didn't feel really solid on my groundstrokes."

Raymond's service also was erratic. She served 11 aces, many more than 90 mph, but also committed seven double faults. Cacic collected seven aces and double faults six times.

TODAY'S LINEUP

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Singles

Patty Fendick vs. Marianne Werdel
Lori McNeil vs. Ericka de Lone
Chanda Rubin vs. Amy Frazier (7)
Natalia Zvereva (5) vs. Meredith McGrath
Linda Harvey-Wild vs. Julie Halard

Doubles

Maleev-White vs. Martinez-Tarabini
Halard-Tauziat vs. Coetzer-Graham

Not Before 7 p.m.

Singles

Gabriela Sabatini (4) vs. Jana Nejedly

Doubles

Davenport-Raymond vs. Paynter-Quentrec

It doesn't get easier for Raymond. The former University of Florida student meets the winner of tomorrow night's Jennifer Capriati-Anke Huber match.

If Capriati, idle for more than a year, should defeat the sixth-seeded Huber, Raymond said she'll look forward to the match.

"It would be a fun match for me," a smiling Raymond said. "I don't know who would be the underdog in that match."

Earlier in her career, Pierce rarely had much fun. But she has survived the merciless harass-

ment of her estranged father, Jim, to rise to No. 5 in the world.

This year, Pierce reached the final of her first Grand Slam tournament, losing to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the French Open. Then, in a curious, much criticized decision, she skipped Wimbledon.

She bounced back by advancing to the semifinals of the Canadian Open, then lost in the quarterfinals of U.S. Open. In three tournaments since the U.S. Open, she has two runner-up finishes and one quarterfinal loss.

"It's been my best year on the tour," she said. "I'm pretty happy."

Pierce, 19, has had a solid year to build on, but knows expectations for her are high.

"People expect 100 percent great tennis all the time, but it's physically impossible," she said.

TU MUCH FOR COETZER

It didn't take long for the first opening-day upset to occur.

Californian Meilen Tu toppled eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer, 6-1, 6-3, yesterday afternoon. Tu, 16, turned pro in September after winning the U.S. Open junior

girls title. Tu caught everybody's attention by defeating top-seeded Martina Hingis in the Open final.

"I knew if I played well, I'd have a chance," Tu said. "I was hitting the ball solid and deep in the warmup. The first points I played, I was attacking right away."

Said Coetzer: "I had a slow start. She played well, but I didn't feel I played my best."

Tu will face another experienced pro next: the winner of the Zina Garrison Jackson-Katerina Maleeva match.

NET NOTES

Mary Pierce, commenting on the atmosphere in a hall that could be an airplane hangar: "It's very odd playing tennis in an empty building. But as long as you have a lot of people in the stands, there's a warm feeling."

Fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini plays tonight's featured match vs. Canada's Jana Nejedly at 7 o'clock. Nejedly, a qualifier, is ranked No. 141. The Jennifer Capriati-Anke Huber match is scheduled for 7 p.m. tomorrow. ■

RESULTS: Page 68

10 of 2

Home, sweet home nearly proves not

Wayne's Raymond struggles in Slims opener



ELWOOD P. SMITH/DAILY NEWS

Lisa Raymond prepares to return a shot in her opening-round comeback win over Sandra Cacic



ELWOOD P. SMITH/DAILY NEWS

Mary Pierce hits a shot in her easy victory over Titiana Ignatieva

TUESDAY

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Sports

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1994

Scoreboard

TENNIS

VIRGINIA SLIMS

Acme Pa. Convention Center

(Seedings in parentheses)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

First Round

Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., def. Amanda Coetzer (8), South Africa, 6-1, 6-3.

Joannette Kruger, South Africa, def. Shaun Stafford, Gainesville, Fla., 6-3, 6-3.

Kimberly Po, Rolling Hills, Calif., def. Maria Alejandro Vento, Venezuela, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Tatiana Ignatieva, Belarus, 6-0, 6-1.

Lisa Raymond, Wayne, def. Sandra Cacic, Bradenton, Fla., 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Singles

Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev. vs. Marianne Werdel, San Diego, Calif.

Lori McNeil, Houston vs. Ericka de Lone, Lincoln, Neb.

Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La. vs. Amy Frazier (7), Rochester Hills, Mich.

Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus vs. Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich.

Linda Harvey-Wild, Hawthorn Woods, Ill. vs. Julie Halard, France

Doubles

Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria and Robin White, Del Mar, Calif. vs. Conchita Martinez, Spain and Patricia Tarabini, Argentina.

Julie Halard, France and Nathalie Tauziat, France vs. Amanda Coetzer, South Africa and Debbie Graham, Fountain Valley, Calif.

Not Before 7 p.m.

Singles

Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina vs. Jana Nejedly, Canada

Doubles

Lindsay Davenport, Murrieta, Calif. and Lisa Raymond, Wayne vs. Vicky Paynter, Canada and Karine Hentecq, France.

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PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

THE PEOPLE PAPER

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THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS



ANDREA MIHALIK/DAILY NEWS

Chanda Rubin returns a shot during upset of Amy Frazier

Speedy service

Sabatini irons out a problem in her game

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

Ace, 96-mph. Service winner, 95 mph. A second serve at 87 mph.

Anyone who saw Gabriela Sabatini tormented by her serve during the U.S. Open never would guess she could be serving like she did last night.

The fourth-seeded Sabatini struggled early in the first set against qualifier Jana Nejedly, but then wore down the 20-year-old Canadian, 6-4, 6-1, in a first-round Slims of Philadelphia match.

Sabatini still double-faults too often (11), but working with her coach, Juan Nunez, she clearly has improved her serve.

"My serve is much more aggressive

than it used to be," Sabatini said. "I'm not letting my opponent attack. I'm winning a lot of free points. We just worked on a few little techniques."

Nejedly, ranked No. 141, led, 3-1, in the first set, but then was broken four consecutive times. She saved three set points before committing an unforced error to end the set.

Sabatini, winless since the 1992 Italian Open, was caught off guard by Nejedly's steady early play. Nejedly's serve needs work, but her ground strokes were impressive.

Said Sabatini: "I didn't think I was playing bad: she was playing very good. She surprised me. The ball was coming very fast."

Earlier yesterday, No. 7 Amy

Frazier became the second seeded player to fall. Frazier was upset by Chanda Rubin, 6-1, 6-1, in just 43 minutes. Last year, Frazier, ranked 14th, reached the tournament semifinals. Rubin is ranked 46th.

In another match, Patty Fendick defeated Marianne Werdel, 6-2, 6-4, to advance to the second round against No. 2 seed Mary Pierce.

Fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva topped Meredith McGrath, 6-4, 6-3, and Erika de Lone beat Mercedes Paz, 6-3, 6-2. Paz was a late replacement for veteran Lori McNeil, who withdrew with tendinitis in her right shoulder. ■

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Capriati comeback takes center stage

Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez and Gigi Fernandez were exchanging ground strokes on a practice court, and no one was paying attention.

On the adjacent court yesterday in the Grand Hall of the Reading Terminal Train Shed, about a dozen photographers were concentrating on an unranked player who hasn't played in a tournament in 14 months.

Peculiar? Yes, but it isn't every week that a Jennifer Capriati returns to the tennis tour.

Tonight is the first step in Capriati's comeback. At 7 o'clock, she will face sixth-seeded Anke Huber in a first round match of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Since Capriati lost in her last match, in the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open, her life has dragged through depths no teenager should experience. She was arrested on marijuana possession charges last May in Florida, checked into a rehabilitation center and lost all her sponsors, who paid her an estimated \$5 million annually. Her despair was so deep that she told the *New York Times* she had been close to committing suicide.

Moving into her own apartment in Florida last March during her senior year in high school and hanging out with drug users was her way of destroying the Jennifer Capriati Tennis Player public image. This young woman who was a semifinalist in three Grand Slam events before she was 16 years old has said she felt no one liked her as a person.

Now, Capriati, once ranked as high as No. 6, is back just for the fun of it, as she describes it. Winning isn't important to her this week, or any time in the near



future.

Capriati, 18, was hitting yesterday with Jose Higuera, the former touring pro who coaches Jim Courier. They met about a month ago at a tennis club in Palm Springs, Calif., where Capriati's family now lives. Higuera agreed to work with her, but he has not signed on as her coach.

Wearing a white T-shirt, lavender shorts and a bright, pink tennis hat, Capriati was hitting the ball hard, as she always has. Later, Higuera would say he is impressed with her timing, conditioning and enthusiasm. But no one knows how Capriati will play tonight against Huber, the No. 13 player in the world.

And since Capriati has been shielded from the media, few people know what she is thinking. The photographers were allowed to get close to her for a few minutes, but reporters were kept at a distance. When Capriati finished practicing, she was escorted to an escalator, thereby avoiding the waiting media.

The often-criticized media has tried to be understanding and give her her space. No one was going to grill her yesterday. We were informed Monday that her only meeting with the media would be after her first match

And tennis questions only, please.

But if she had met with the media on Monday, it would have been a saner situation: She would have avoided the persistent one-nighters who will be overwhelming the scene tonight.

Near the end of Capriati's session, Huber appeared for her practice workout. While Huber, the No. 13 player in the world, waited for Capriati to vacate the court, she stretched on the stair railings leading to the ballroom and scouted her opponent.

Last month, in her native Germany, Huber won the tournament in Filderstadt. She defeated Martina Navratilova in the quarterfinals and Mary Pierce in the final.

Huber didn't know Capriati was playing in Philadelphia until someone told her during a tournament in Oakland last week. Then it was: "Guess what, Anke? You're playing Jennifer."

"I was surprised," Huber said. "It's difficult because I don't know what to expect. She was a good player. I'll just try to play my best. I have nothing to lose."

Huber, 20, knows the crowd will be with Capriati.

"I played Martina in Germany, and the crowd was for her," Huber said. She figures if she can handle that unsettling atmosphere, she won't be rattled tonight.

Like other players, Huber is happy to see Capriati back.

"It's good for women's tennis," Huber said. "Something was missing. [Monica] Seles and Capriati, two good players, were missing. At least one is coming back."

The WTA Tour needs players with personality, players who are willing to express some emotion on the court.

The tour still is looking for a sponsor. One way to attract a



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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jennifer Capriati grins during practice yesterday

sponsor is to remind the players that, while pro tennis is big business, it's also entertainment. During her first-round match Monday, the second-seeded Pierce laughed several times and the crowd loved it.

Jose Higuera and many others want Capriati to smile tonight and in the future.

"She should just enjoy it [tonight] and have a good time," Higuera said. "She should walk

off the court with a good feeling. She seems pretty relaxed and happy. This is a much bigger deal for everybody else than it is for her."

I'm not sure about that. Getting on with a normal life is more of a big deal for Capriati than resuming her career as a tennis player. But, if she can be a Top 10 player again — a happy Top 10 player — that would be an ace women's tennis can really use. ■

PHILADELPHIA DAILY
NEWS
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50¢ LATE SPORTS

Cover Page of Daily News

**Capriati
loses in
1st round**

Sports



JIM MACMILLAN / DAILY NEWS

2042835771

Victory of another sort

Capriati falls in return, but finds enjoyment in playing

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

Seldom has a loser felt as good as Jennifer Capriati did last night.

In her first tennis match in 14 months, Capriati lost to sixth-seeded Anke Huber, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, in a first-round Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament meeting at the Convention Center.

Capriati, 18, played remarkably well for someone who was off the WTA Tour for more than a year following personal and legal troubles.

Stroking the ball with her old power, Capriati stayed in the match until the third set, when she understandably tired. Her serve wasn't as effective as it was in her days as a top player, and she didn't remind anyone of Steffi Graf the way she moved around the blue Supreme Court. But Capriati, never cat-quick in her court coverage, reached more shots than many expected her to get.

"It's great to be back," she declared. "I had a lot of fun just playing. I enjoyed myself."

The near-sellout crowd of almost 5,000 enjoyed having her back. As she was introduced, she received a warm greeting. At key moments during the one-hour, 29-minute match, the fans encouraged her with "Come on, Jen" appeals. When the match ended, both players received a standing ovation.

Perhaps many spectators saw an 18-year-old who could be their child, someone has gone through a rebellious stage, tried drugs, spent time in rehabilitation and now wants to do return to the sport she loves.

Earlier, Capriati's friend, Lindsay Davenport, the tournament's No. 3 seed, expressed the sentiment of most players when she

said: "It's just tremendous that she's coming back already. I don't think anyone would have predicted that she'd come back this soon."

"She has a great attitude right now. I think she's going to handle it pretty well, win or lose. The more she plays, the less of a deal it will become to media all over the world."

During her time away from the tour, Capriati said she learned "what makes me happy."

"I learned that I really love this game and it doesn't matter to me whether I win or lose," she said. "I just want to compete again. I experienced a lot. I got wiser."

For the first two competitive sets last night, Capriati and Huber blasted baseline shots at each other at a level rarely seen in a first-round match. As Capriati prepared to hit shots, she had the familiar fiercely determined expression from when she reached the semifinals of Grand Slam tournaments as a 15-year-old. Here was a healthy tennis player again, not the troubled teenager whose haggard face appeared in a police mug shot.

Capriati took the first four games of the second set. But her serve was broken to open the third set and she fell behind, 0-4.

Later, following her first victory over Capriati in five matches, Huber said: "She hit the ball well and received well. She played her game. She made mistakes [but] she played fine."

"With the name Capriati, you know she can play well. With the crowd behind her, it was not easy to play her."

The last 14 months haven't been easy for Capriati. She is returning to tennis tentatively. The 1991 Philadelphia finalist indicated she might play in the Australian Open in January, but there were

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JIM MacMILLAN/ DAILY NEWS

Jennifer Capriati said it was 'great to be back' playing tennis after missing more than a year

no commitments toward full-time participation on the WTA Tour.

"Right now, my goal is not to be No. 1," she said. "I'm just going out there to play and see how it goes. I'm not thinking of any expectations. I don't have any."

During Capriati's time away, Davenport and other players frequently spoke with her. But Davenport said she avoided discussing tennis.

"I've especially tried hard not to make it my whole life," Davenport said. "For someone who [tennis] destroyed a little part of, you've got to purposely try not to make it [her whole life]."

"When she was 14, she was just

so good. It's kind of inevitable that there would be all that pressure on her and she wouldn't live up to the expectations.

"It's hard for me. I turned pro at 16 and I didn't do nearly as well as she did. I can't really imagine what she went through."

Capriati traveled to Philadelphia with Jose Higuera, her temporary tennis adviser. She said her parents stayed home in California, because "I just wanted to keep everything as simple as I could."

Referring to a comment by Chanda Rubin, another promising 18-year-old player, that "tennis isn't a family project," Davenport said:

"It's not something every member of the family has to get involved in. That's what happened [with Capriati]."

"Coming here on her own is a huge step. Socializing with us is totally going in the right direction."

Huber will play Lisa Raymond, of Wayne, in tonight's featured match. Capriati's tournament in singles is over, but she's playing doubles with Mercedes Paz. She'll return to center court tonight feeling happy with herself and her tennis. ■

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Top seed Martinez upset by Tauziat

by Bill Fleischman

Daily News Sports Writer

Hours before Jennifer Capriati played her much anticipated match last night, the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia's No. 1 seed took the big adios.

Conchita Martinez, the defending Philadelphia champion, was upset by unseeded Nathalie Tauziat, 6-4, 6-4.

Tauziat, ranked No. 39, admits she has had "a bad year." The career of the 27-year-old French woman hasn't exactly been history-making either.

She has career victories over Martinez (1990 U.S. Open), Martina Navratilova and Gabriela Sabatini. But Tauziat's best performances in Grand Slam events are reaching the quarterfinals of the French Open and Wimbledon once each.

By contrast, Martinez won Wimbledon this year and is ranked No. 3 in the world. How, then, could she lose to a person she had beaten five times in a row?

"I didn't play so bad," said Martinez. "She played really a good match. She was tough."

Insisting she didn't surprise herself, Tauziat said, "When I play, my best I can beat anybody."

Any idea that Martinez would quickly recover from her first set loss was dismissed when her serve was broken in the third game of the second set. Martinez scrambled back to tie the set, 3-3, but then she was broken in the next game.

Martinez, 22, saved one break point with a service winner, then failed to convert two game points on unforced errors. When she hit a backhand-half-volley long on

the second break point, she yelled and disgustedly tossed her racket toward the sideline.

Tauziat proved she was in control in the next game when she won the final two points of the love game on half volleys while she was on the move.

On the verge of winning two games later, Tauziat went ahead 40-0 on a net cord. At triple match point, she hit another net cord as Martinez watched helplessly. Tauziat covered her mouth with her right hand, suppressing a can-you-believe-this smile.

"I served, really, well, and, I

played good at the net, too," Tauziat said. "I tried not to make easy mistakes to give her points."

Aware that Martinez could suddenly gain momentum, Tauziat never relaxed until the match was over.

"With Conchita, you never know," Tauziat said. "She can stop playing and [then] play again. She wanted to fight because she won here last year. I think about that and I never gave up."

Tauziat will meet Kimberly Po, a Slims of Philadelphia semifinalist last year, in the second round. ■

2042835774

Second ride to top will be harder

You get one turn as America's Sweetheart. The only thing more dizzying than the ride to the top is the fall.

The fall that reaches terminal velocity in a heartbeat and ends with a messy splatter on the TV magazine shows.

Bye-bye, Miss American Pie ... The crown topples in a blur.

One minute, Jennifer Capriati stood in the beaten copper of a Barcelona sun glinting off her Olympic gold medal.

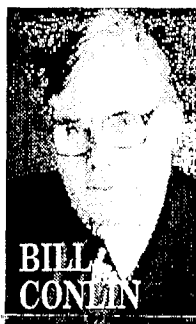
Still a kid, really, just the superstar next door, with her Volley Girl syntax, all "wow" and "like" and "you know" and everything "really neat." Just your basic 500-word American teenager's working vocabulary. Enough to order at a

drive-through window, converse monosyllabically with coaches, agents, peers and, sigh, parents.

I'll always remember that first Wimbledon, when she recounted her Paris adventures during the French Open. I think it was a few shops, the Eiffel Tower, a drive past the Louvre and around the Arc de Triomphe.

"Wow, I'm only 14 and I've already done Paris," she gushed. And everybody felt all touchy-feely at the thought there was still room in a cynical world for wide-eyed ingenuousness.

Sweet 16 in Barcelona and she had just buried the world's best player, Steffi Graf, the defending Olympic queen. If the world was not her oyster as she held that medal aloft, a charming little mustache of perspiration above her upper lip like a string of pearls, it sure as hell was her Big Mac and double fries to go.



I guess the shoplifting thing at her hometown mall in Florida last year should have sounded a louder alarm than it did. Hey, she was giggling with a girlfriend and put some cheap ring in her bag, forgetting she had picked it up at all. Short attention span theater, right? Actually, when that hit the wires, we were feeling pretty good about her. She had dropped off the tour so she could graduate with her own class from her own high school. So she could do all the things she had sacrificed doing while earning prize money of \$1,491,823 and millions more in endorsements, ensuring Stefano Capriati would never have to work again. Not that he did much clock-punching once the tennis apparel companies and agents made it clear he had struck the mother lode with his powerful, athletic little girl.

How did anybody know the crowd she fell in with was right out of "Fast Times at Ridgemont High"?

She went downhill faster than Tonya Harding.

It all ended for her in a cheap Coral Gables, Fla., motel, ended in a fog of alcohol, drugs and allegations of sex, ended after she used her credit cards to finance a spree for herself and her new-

found "friends" that ended with a drug bust. Police mug shots of her were shocking. They showed a bloated, unkempt young woman — she had turned 18 by then — whose self-esteem had bottomed at zero.

Do not feel flattered that Jennifer Capriati chose the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia last night to launch her plunge back into the piranha tank that is women's professional tennis.

Nah, Capriati is — sorry, about that, Anke Huber, was — here because Barbara Potter, her International Management Group, also is the tournament director.

Think back to Don King's before-prison relationship with Mike Tyson and you have an idea of where Capriati-Potter ranks on the

conflict of interest Richter scale. Nor is that intended to be a rip at either. It is just the way of the tennis world. Now that the floundering women's tour is without a major sponsor, IMG is the power behind the throne. There even has been talk it might take over as the tour's prime sponsor.

Capriati attracted the biggest crowd of the week by far and the town's tennis aficionados gave her a prolonged ovation when she came out to warm up. It was a startling sound — warm cheers for a troubled Florida teenager in a town where a pennant-winning manager and a 7-2 NFL coach are routinely booed.

PI 10/2

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Jenny's tennis was fine, considering she went as long as nine months without hitting a ball during her scandal-dogged sabbatical. But the playing of the games themselves always is the easiest part for the fallen millionaire superstars of our time, the Strawberryss, Goodens, Howes, Capriatis. The hard part is getting through the nights, dealing with the demands of fame while shackled with arrested adolescence and underdeveloped social skills.

When Anke Huber is able to banish her own demons, the enigmatic German woman is capable of beating anybody, including Graf. Her game was loose last night, her focus un-Rich Kotite-like and she dropped the second set. Which was more than Capriati could have hoped for. Then Anke raised her game, fatigue took a half step away from Jennifer and she fell, 6-1, in the third.

Her game remains a paradox of towering strengths and glaring deficiencies. Her groundstrokes off both wings remain lethal. But her lack of sheer foot speed make her vulnerable against the Grafs, Sabatinis and Sanchez Vicarios. She has to get more than 85 mph with her first serve and she has to attack more off short balls.

It would have served Jennifer, the game of tennis and her loyal supporters had she had a press conference frankly addressing the problems that led to the motel in Coral Gables. Get it out in

the open, then ask me about tennis only, please. I know a lot of people in 12-step programs who openly scoff at the quick-fix counseling that is a proven failure for the Goodens and Howes.

So what has Jennifer Capriati learned from the 14-month ordeal that caused her sponsors to drop her, that erased her name from the computer rankings? We might never know. But as long as she knows, and learns from it, maybe that will be good enough.

"Learned? Well, I learned that I really love this game and that it doesn't matter to me whether I win or lose," she said. When Capriati left the tour, she had begun to equate losing with her worth as a human being.

"Whether I win or lose I just want to come out and compete again," Capriati said. "You know, I experienced a lot. I got wiser, I think. I found out what makes me ... happy. I learned a lot about myself."

Stefano Capriati was conspicuously and blessedly absent. Perhaps he and Jim Pierce, Mary's dad, are working on a consulting service to advise Venus Williams and the next wave of adolescent *wunderkinds* with huge forehands and tiny attention spans.

I hope Jennifer Capriati really means it about the fun part. Because from what I've seen of the women's tennis tour and its pressured, joyless vagabonds, it is about as much fun as a migraine headache at a Nine Inch Nails concert.

With Monica Seles still chambered in a nautilus shell of trepidation, with the Big Four of women's tennis — Graf, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Gabriela Sabatini and Pierce — colorless as an

arctic landscape, Capriati's comeback will be a hot item.

But at least in boxing, when

you want to make a comeback, HBO gets you a bout with a bum nobody ever heard of. ■

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ELWOOD P. SMITH/DAILY NEWS

Lisa Raymond, of Wayne, makes a backhand shot in her disappointing loss to Germany's Anke Huber

The witching hour

Raymond starts strong, fades as match ends past midnight

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

The small late-night crowd that remained could complain about the absurd scheduling, but the fans got their money's worth.

Lisa Raymond was agonizingly close to the biggest victory of her two-year pro tennis career last night in the Convention Center. But after leading by three games over sixth-seeded Anke Huber in the third set, she tired and lost, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (7-1), in a second-round Virginia Slims of Philadelphia match.

Raymond, the mini-warrior from Wayne, will be thinking about the loss for a long time.

"This is getting to be a bad habit of mine, playing well but losing to top players," Raymond said as she trudged to the locker room after midnight. "Physically and mentally, I was just done."

The 2-hour, 15-minute match began on an encouraging note, but ended with Raymond hopelessly behind, 6-0, in the tiebreaker.

Encouraged by a vocal group of supporters, Raymond almost topped Huber, the No. 13-ranked player in the world.

Leading, 4-1, in the third set, Raymond seemed in command. Huber swept the next three games.

Serving at 4-4, Raymond, her white shirt draped over her aqua skirt, summoned a final burst of energy. She fought off three break points and went ahead, 5-4.

Huber, once heralded in Germany as the next Steffi Graf, held and then broke Raymond to lead, 6-5. Serving for the match, Huber faltered. Leading, 30-15, she double-faulted twice, then committed an unforced error to send the match into the tiebreaker.

By now, Raymond's fuel tank was empty. At match point, she stroked a backhand winner, but Huber won on the next point.

"At 1-4," Huber said, "I played some good returns and she got a little bit tired."

Huber will play Kimberly Po, a semifinalist last year, in a quarterfinal today.

Meeting for the first time, Huber and Raymond traded service breaks to begin the match, then both held serve until Huber was broken in the 11th game. On break point, a backhand service return by Raymond tipped the net and trickled over.

Leading, 6-5, Raymond set up triple set point by almost routinely lashing a backhand crosscourt winner. A service winner clinched the set.

In the sixth game of the second set, Raymond saved four break points before Huber finally stroked a forehand winner to take a 4-2 led. Leading, 5-3, Huber struggled to close out the set. She double-faulted twice, but eluded three break points to take the set.

Other than being a stubborn opponent of a top-ranked player, the only consolation the No. 44-ranked Raymond could take was that she played better than in her first-round win over Sandra Cacic.

The highlights of Raymond's resume for 1994 will include reaching the finals in Tübingen, Switzer-

land, where she lost to her doubles partner, Lindsay Davenport. The two-time NCAA titlist at the University of Florida was a quarterfinalist in the Eastbourne tuneup tournament for Wimbledon and advanced to the third round of the U.S. Open.

In a round-of-16 match in San Diego, she won a set from Graf before losing the next two, 6-2, 6-2.

The Huber-Raymond match, tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m., didn't begin until 10:08, because the day session didn't end until 9:37. A 20-minute fashion show followed. A fashion show!

The official explanation for scheduling seven day matches Tuesday through yesterday was that several players asked not to play Monday. They were traveling from Oakland and Quebec City, the sites of last week's tournament, or had nagging injuries. ■

Schultz makes quick work of Davenport

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

Lindsay Davenport suspected she was in trouble when Brenda Schultz's second serve of the day was clocked at 108 mph.

"Some people start off a little stiff, but she started off with aces," the third-seeded Davenport said after she was upset by Schultz, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, yesterday in a second-round Virginia Slims of Philadelphia match. "[Her serve] was hurting my wrist when I touched [the ball]."

Schultz hammered the fastest serve on the WTA Tour this year: a 114-mph rocket during the French Open. The 6-2 Schultz has always had an intimidating serve. Problem was, the rest of her game wasn't keeping pace. Opponents wore her down by moving her around the court.

At age 23, many suspected, Schultz was doomed to a lackluster career.

"I guess for a lot of people it took longer than expected," she said. "Everybody would say, 'Ah, Brenda, she should be Top 10.'"

"Last year my goal was to make the [Slims] Championships. At the end of the year, I pulled my groin muscles twice. I said I'll keep working at it and it will come. I kept believing in it."

At the Lipton tournament in Florida in March, Schultz upset No. 2-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the quarterfinals. The victory was a clear sign the years she worked with Juan Nunez, Gabriela Sabatini's latest coach, were finally paying off.

"Everything really started clicking then, and I kept going the whole year," Schultz said.

Schultz lost to top-ranked Steffi Graf in the finals of a Berlin tournament in May. Last week, she reached the finals in Quebec City before bowing to Katerina Maleeva.

"I'm finally breaking through to my goal, the championships this year," she said.

Schultz vs. the 6-2 Davenport is tennis's version of tall ball. To beat Davenport, Schultz said, she tried to "mix it up" and keep the ball away from her.

Said Schultz: "The ball has to be away from her in angles, because then she wants to overhit it

ball. In the second set, I started getting in a groove and serving better."

Beginning the third set, Schultz broke Davenport's serve. Schultz was up, 40-0, on her serve, then dropped the next five points. However, Davenport could not break the Dutch woman. At 4-4, Schultz broke Davenport, then served out the set.

Said Davenport: "She doesn't give you a rhythm. She'll make some shots and miss some shots. It's very weird.

"I definitely thought I should win that match, but it's hard when she's on and getting two or three points every service game. I was trying my hardest to break her but it just wasn't happening."

Schultz will meet Natalia Zvereva in today's 11 a.m. quarterfinal. The fifth-seeded Zvereva defeated Julie Halard, 6-1, 6-4.

No. 2 seed Mary Pierce is the highest-seeded player remaining. She defeated Patty Fendick, 6-3, 6-1, yesterday and will face 16-year-old Meilen Tu in a quarterfinal today.

Tu, the U.S. Open junior champion who's playing in only her second pro tournament, upset Maleeva, 6-4, 6-3.

SURPRISE FOR SABATINI

After advancing to the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over South Africa's Joanne Kruger, fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini learned she had drawn Martina Navratilova in the first round of next week's Slims Championships in New York City. The \$3.5 million championships, featuring the WTA Tour's top 16 singles players, is the last stop of Navratilova's distinguished career.

"I'm excited, I love to play Martina," Sabatini said. "She's fun on the court. She talks to the press sometimes. She makes you really get into [the match]."

A banner honoring Navratilova will be hoisted to the Madison Square Garden rafters after the Tuesday night match.

NET NOTES

Jennifer Capriati withdrew from her doubles match last night. Capriati developed a right arm strain during her first match in 14 months, a three-set loss to

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